40¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 509
JULY

WHO ARE THE FIVE PEOPLE EXILED FROM EARTH BY THE MAN OF STEEL?

SUPERMAN STARRING IN ACTION COMICS

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

SUPERMAN! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO US?

FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!

EXTRA!
IN THIS ISSUE.. A COMPLETE 28-PAGE BONUS SUPERMAN STORY!

ANDRU & GIORDANO
0 70989 30410 0 7
9-3360

THE DINGO KIDS MEET O.J. SIMPSON

IT'S O.J. SIMPSON BREAKING OFF TACKLE! HE'S AT THE 40, THE 30. HE'S GOING ALL THE WAY. IT'S A TOUCH DOWN!

LATER ... IN THE LOCKER ROOM

WOW! O.J. SIMPSON! LET'S GET HIS AUTOGRAPH!

AW, A SUPERSTAR LIKE HIM WOULDN'T NOTICE US...

HEY! WITH THOSE DINGO BOOTS, YOU GUYS LOOK LIKE SUPERSTARS!

O.J.! HOW'D YOU KNOW WE WERE WEARING DINGO'S?

MAN, IT'S EASY! NOBODY PUTS LEATHER TOGETHER LIKE DINGO! I WEAR DINGO'S MYSELF!

YOU WEAR DINGO'S, O.J.!

SURE! I'VE GOT TO PUT SOMETHING SPECIAL ON MY FEET AFTER A GREAT GAME.

HEY, O.J. HOW ABOUT AN AUTOGRAPH?

FOR THE DINGO KIDS? YOU BET!

O.J. Dingo

KIDS! GET YOUR FREE AUTOGRAPHED PHOTO OF ME, O.J.! MAIL TO "O.J. DINGO", P.O. BOX 749, CLARKSVILLE, TENN. 37040.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

dingo

ACME BOOT COMPANY, INC. PO BOX 749 CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE 37040 A SUBSIDIARY OF NORTHWEST INDUSTRIES, INC OR CALL TOLL FREE 800-251-1382 (EXCEPT IN TENN.)

ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET *KRYPTON*, *KAL-EL* GREW TO MANHOOD ON *EARTH*--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC *SUPER-POWERS*! IN THE CITY OF *METROPOLIS*, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED NEWSMAN *CLARK KENT*--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER *EARTH*--AND *BEYOND*--AS...

SUPERMAN

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

THIS *OMEGA-V ROCKET* HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED TO CARRY AUTOMATED *COMPUTER-DRONES* 50 MILLION MILES TO *MARS*!

BUT THE TAKE-OFF IS SO *ERRATIC*, THE MISSION WILL BE *ABORTED*--

--UNLESS I GIVE THE ROCKET A *SUPER-BOOST*!

WHY IS THIS LATEST CHAPTER OF MAN'S NEVER-ENDING QUEST TO THE STARS DOOMED TO END BEFORE IT CAN BEGIN? HAS IT ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE SOCIETY OF SPACE SKEPTICS WHICH CLAIMS THAT INTERPLANETARY FLIGHT IS SCIENTIFICALLY IMPOSSIBLE?

THE GREAT SPACE-TRAVEL HOAX!

Writer: CARY BATES Penciller: CURT SWAN Inker: FRANK CHIARAMONTE
Letterer: JOHN COSTANZA Colorist: GENE D'ANGELO Editor: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

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WHAT'S THROWING THE ROCKET OFF COURSE, YOU WONDER? IF YOU HAD THE SUPER-VISION OF THE MAN OF STEEL, THE REASON WOULD BE ALL TOO APPARENT--

--A FANTASTIC THING CLINGING TO THE SIDE OF THE HULL...

...AN UNEARTHLY CREATURE WHOSE ALARM MAKES IT INVISIBLE TO HUMAN VISION!

MY WHAT--WHY--WHERE QUESTIONS WILL HAVE TO WAIT--!

ITS STRENGTH MUST BE TREMENDOUS TO MOVE A 500-TON ROCKET OFF COURSE!

IT DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE SPOTTED ME YET, SO I'LL HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF CATCHING IT OFF-GUARD!

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU'RE TRYING TO HITCH A RIDE, BUT I'M BUMPING YOU OFF!

THWOCKKK!

SOON AS I GET THE OMEGA-V BACK ON ITS PROGRAMMED COURSE-- I'LL DEAL WITH THAT "ROCKET-RAIDER"!

BUT BEFORE THE MAN OF ACTION CAN ACT...

UNNNN! THIS TIME IT GOT THE JUMP ON ME!

IF THAT BEAST THINKS PULLING ME AWAY FROM THE ROCKET WILL BE AS EASY AS SHOVING THAT ROCKET OFF COURSE, IT'S GOING TO FIND IT ROUGH GOING...

...STARTING WITH THIS SUPER-SPEED SOMERSAULT STUNT!

KUCHUKKK!

DOWN, DOWN, DOWN PLUNGES THE DUO, LOCKED IN EACH OTHER'S SUPER-GRIPS...

...WHILE ABOVE, 500 TONS OF NASA TECHNOLOGY AND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF EQUIPMENT BEGIN THEIR OWN DOWNWARD PLUNGE!

AND EVEN IN THE THROES OF SUPERMAN'S BATTLE, AS TELESCOPIC BEAMS SCAN SKYWARD...

GREAT KRYPTON! THE OMEGA-V IS OUT OF CONTROL -- HEADING INTO A CRASH-DIVE!

GOT TO BREAK FREE--!

BUT BREAKING FREE IS NO PROBLEM -- WHEN THERE IS NO ONE HOLDING TIGHT!...

GONE... WITHOUT A TRACE?! WHAT'S GOING ON UP HERE?

NOW THAT THERE'S NO INTERFERENCE, MAYBE I CAN GET THAT ROCKET GOING AGAIN!

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN THE GROUND-CONTROL CENTER NEAR HOUSTON...

...AND SINCE THE OMEGA IS STILL UNRESPONSIVE TO OUR ATTEMPTS TO ADJUST ITS COURSE -- THERE'S NO ALTERNATIVE!

I AGREE, GENERAL! WE'LL HAVE TO ABORT!

ACTIVATE SELF-DESTRUCT CIRCUIT!

NO WONDER IT'S NOSE-DIVING! THE ROCKET'S SOPHISTICATED GYROSCOPIC NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEM HAS BEEN MELTED DOWN!

MUST HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THAT ALIEN THING!

BUT THEN -- AS THE X-RAY VISION SCAN REVEALS THE SUDDEN ACTIVATION OF A CERTAIN SET OF RED-LINED CIRCUITS...

BY RAO! THAT CIRCUIT FEEDS DIRECTLY INTO A DETONATOR!

THE NASA BOYS HAVE DECIDED TO ABORT!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

GUMFIGHTING DO'S AND DON'TS.

Hubba Bubba

The first thing to do—pick the right chew: Hubba Bubba.® The soft and juicy bubble gum with amazing no-stick bubbles.™ Then proceed with this simple yet effective gumfight drill: (1) Begin blowing bubble. Note Hubba Bubba's incredibly large bubble. (2) When the Hubba Bubba bubble breaks do not be alarmed. (3) Simply remove Hubba Bubba from your face. That's right, simply remove and replace in mouth. Return to step 1. Repeat drill ten times.

THE PROPER STANCE.

Gumfighter's hat (optional)
Hubba Bubba bubble should be facing opponent
Keep elbows akimbo (bent)
93°
Note soft, juicy and delicious Hubba Bubba close at hand.
Knees slightly bent forward
Feet planted firmly on ground

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YOUR SIZE IS NOT IMPORTANT.

The size of your bubble is. And that means choosing the right bubble gum—Hubba Bubba. Because when it comes to great, big, fat bubbles, nothing sizes up to a Hubba Bubba bubble.

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES.

This boy did. And now instead of wearing a smile, he's wearing a paper bag over the bubble gum stuck to his face. Definitely not soft and juicy Hubba Bubba Bubble Gum. Does Hubba Bubba really work? Absolutely! Hubba Bubba is gumfighter tested and approved.

So pick up a pack of Hubba Bubba in original or mint flavor. Enjoy that soft, juicy, delicious taste. Plus those great, big Hubba Bubba bubbles that won't stick to your face.

SOFT. JUICY. DELICIOUS.

BIG BUBBLES, NO TROUBLES.

Geographic availability may vary.

The "Juice" says...

O.J. Simpson

"SHOW THEM YOUR HEELS"

O.J. Simpson and 9 other Pros recommend the new Spot-bilt® "Autograph" to put you out in front!

Show them your heels in any turf sport. The New Spot-bilt "Autograph" multi-purpose shoe is light, fast and tough. Great for soccer, baseball or football. And why not? You're wearing athletic shoes recommended by the Spot-bilt Advisory Staff of O.J. Simpson and 9 other Super Pros.

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Spot-bilt... the extra step when you're on the spot!

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You get a 2' X 3' poster ($3.00 value) showing your favorite Spot-bilt Pro in action FREE when you buy a pair of Spot-bilt Autograph shoes. Look for the special coupon inside the package or ask your sporting goods dealer for details.

BA-DOOOOOM!

AND WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS...

JUST MANAGED TO DETACH THE NOSE-CONE IN TIME TO KEEP IT INTACT--

--AND AHEAD OF THE DEVASTATING SHOCK-WAVE!

SINCE THE OMEGA-V BOOSTER IS NO LONGER AROUND TO CARRY THESE INSTRUMENTS TO MARS--

--I'LL HAVE TO TAKE OVER THE JOB!

AND IN MERE SECONDS, THE SUPERMAN SPECIAL DELIVERY IS COMPLETED!...

WHEN I X-RAYED WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE OMEGA BOOSTER'S NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEM... I MEMORIZED THE MATHEMATICAL COORDINATES OF ITS PROJECTED ORBIT AROUND MARS!

SO BY USING SUPER-STRENGTH TO DUPLICATE THE THRUST AND MOMENTUM FACTORS--

--I SENT IT INTO THE PRECISE ORBIT ORIGINALLY PROGRAMMED BY HOUSTON GROUND-CONTROL!

IT WILL LAND ON THE MARTIAN SURFACE AS PLANNED--BUT SEVERAL MONTHS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE!

METROPOLIS, THAT AFTERNOON--SPECIFICALLY, THE OFFICES OF THE DAILY PLANET...

NOW THERE'S ONE HEADLINE IT WAS A PLEASURE TO PRINT! WITH THE WORLD THE WAY IT IS THESE DAYS, UPBEAT STORIES ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN!

THEY'D BE A LOT FEWER AND FARTHER BETWEEN, CHIEF... IF IT WEREN'T FOR SUPERMAN!

DAILY PLANET

SUPERMAN SAVES OMEGA PROBE

NASA INSTRUMENTS LAND ON MARS INTACT

YOU'VE GOT A POINT THERE, JIMMY! WE SHOULD ALL BE GRATEFUL WE'VE GOT A SUPER-HERO IN OUR MIDST!

THERE YOU ARE, CLARK! NO WONDER I COULDN'T FIND YOU UP ON WEBS!

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE MISSED OUT ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, CLARK KENT DIVIDES HIS TIME BETWEEN BEING A TELEVISION NEWSCASTER AND NEWSPAPER REPORTER!

LANA LANG! DON'T TELL ME -- YOU'VE DECIDED TO QUIT TV-NEWS AND COME TO WORK FOR THE PLANET?

NOT THIS WEEK, LUV!

CLARK, COULD I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU -- IN PRIVATE?

AND WHEN CLARK'S CO-ANCHOR ON WEBS-NEWS EXPLAINS...

GOSH, LANA... YOU'RE NOT REALLY GOING TO STICK ME WITH THIS ARE YOU?

CLARK, YOU CAN'T LET ME DOWN! MY FATHER WILL BE IN TOWN TOMORROW FOR ONLY ONE DAY BEFORE HE LEAVES ON HIS AFRICAN EXPEDITION!

IT TOOK MORGAN EDGE WEEKS OF HAGGLING TO GET THE SKEPTICONS TO AGREE TO A VIDEO-TAPE INTERVIEW! IF WE TRY TO RESCHEDULE, THEY'RE SURE TO CANCEL!

BUT JUDGING BY THIS NEWSLETTER... THESE PEOPLE ARE FIRST-CLASS LOONIES! WHY DOES MR. EDGE EVEN WANT TO BOTHER?

ONE REASON, LUV -- RATINGS! SO YOU WILL COVER FOR ME TOMORROW ...FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE?

WELL, LANA... SINCE YOU PUT IT THAT WAY!

AT THE

THIS IS CLARK KENT WITH A SPECIAL ON-THE-SPOT REPORT FOR WGBS!

I'M STANDING IN BRAINERDSVILLE, A SMALL TOWN 200 MILES SOUTH-WEST OF METROPOLIS. POPULATION 25,000

THE BROWN BUILDING BEHIND ME MAY NOT LOOK OUT OF THE ORDINARY

BUT THIS IS THE GROUP OF PEOPLE IT HOUSES - COMPRISING A UNIQUE CLUB THAT IS DEFINITELY EXTRAORDINARY!

BOGUS SPACE SKEPTICS

THE OFFICIAL TITLE IS THE SOCIETY OF SPACE SKEPTICS. A MOCKING BANNER TO THE THOUSANDS OF WORLD-WIDE DISBELIEVERS WHO SUBSCRIBE TO ITS NEWSLETTER "THE SKEPTICON!"

SHALL WE GO INSIDE?

THIS IS GEOFFREY J. ARNO... PRESIDENT AND FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE SOCRATICANS, AS THE LEADERS HAVE COME TO BE NICKNAMED BY THEIR FOLLOWERS!

MR. ARNO, WOULD YOU BRIEFLY OUTLINE THE MAIN DOCTRINE OF YOUR SOCIETY FOR OUR VIEWERS?

QUITE SIMPLY, MR KENT, THE S.S.S. UNEQUIVOCABLY DENIES ANY AND ALL OF MAN'S ALLEGED ACHIEVEMENTS IN OUTER SPACE...

FROM THE SO-CALLED SPUTNIK SATELLITE OF 1957 THROUGH THE APOLLO MOON SHOTS... UP TO AND INCLUDING YESTERDAY'S CHEOPS ARGUS HOAX!

ARNO... SIR? YOU'RE SAYING THAT SOMEBODY CAUSED THE CHEOPS ARGUS TO APPEAR?

ABSOLUTELY! SPACE TRAVEL OF ANY KIND -- MANNED OR UNMANNED -- IS PATENTLY -- BLATANTLY -- SCIENTIFICALLY -- IMPOSSIBLE!

SOMEBODY HAS BEEN HOAXING THE WORLD WITH FRAUDULENT SPACE-FEATS AND HIS CLAIM TO AN ALIEN ORIGIN FOR YEARS! THERE ARE NO OTHER HABITABLE PLANETS!

THEN TELL ME, PLEASE--IF ALL THE SPACE-WALKS, SKYLAB, MARINER AND PIONEER PROBES, AND THE REST HAVE BEEN ELABORATELY STAGED HOAXES... WHAT IS GOING ON THE MOON?

WHY WOULD THE GOVERNMENT PERSIST IN MAKING *DUPES* OF THE PUBLIC?

BUREAUCRATIC *GREED*, MR KENT! STAGING *SIMULATED* MOON WALKS AND FAKED PHOTOGRAPHS OF PLANETARY FLY-BYS COST FAR *LESS* THAN THE *HUGE SUMS* ALLEGEDLY ALLOTTED TO NASA FOR THESE *IMPOSSIBLE* MISSIONS!

THERE YOU HAVE IT IN A NUTSHELL, LEWIS! *GUSTAV ARGYO* AND HIS ORIGINAL *SKEPTICONS* HAVE STEADFASTLY ADHERED TO THEIR *BELIEFS* FOR *THREE DECADES* NOW

SOME CALL THEM *MISGUIDED GENIUSES*. OTHERS BRAND THEM RAVING *LUNATICS*! WHAT DO *YOU* THINK, CLARK KENT *ON-THE-SPOT* HERE IN BRAMPLEVILLE, FOR *GBS-TV*!

OKAY, CLARK-- THAT'S A *WRAP*! WE'VE GOT MORE THAN ENOUGH *TAPE* FOR TONIGHT'S BROADCAST!

LANA HERSELF COULDN'T HAVE DONE A *SUPERBITCHER* JOB, CONSIDERING *WHAT* YOU HAD TO WORK WITH!

I MEAN, WHEN IT COMES TO *ASSORTED NUTS*-- THAT GROUP COULD KNOW *PEANUTS* IS A THING OR TWO!

IT MUST'VE TAKEN A LOT OF *WILL POWER* TO KEEP FROM *CRACKING* UP!

ER.. IT *WAS* RATHER *DIFFICULT*!

FLASH

A FLASH IN THE DAM

I WANT EVERYBODY TO BE MISERABLE AND UNHAPPY LIKE ME. THEY WILL BE WHEN I DESTROY THE DOOTER DAM!

THE DESTROYER WILL BLAST THE DAM TO PIECES... UNLESS I GET THERE FIRST.

WHOOOOPS. THE DESTROYER STARTED WITHOUT ME... BUT I'M HERE NOW!

YOU FORGOT TO INCLUDE ME IN YOUR PLANS, DESTROYER.

THE TROUBLE WITH YOU, DESTROYER IS YOU'VE NEVER LEARNED TO ENJOY THE LITTLE THINGS IN LIFE....

WHY THOSE ARE ACORTOOP TURNOVER CAKES, HUMM... THIS LIGHT, GOLDEN SPONGE CAKE AND CREAMED FILLING.

YOU YAK, FLASH. I'LL GIVE MYSELF UP! THERE IS A LOT OF HAPPINESS IN ACORTOOP TURNOVER CAKES.

YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF ACORTOOP TURNOVER CAKES

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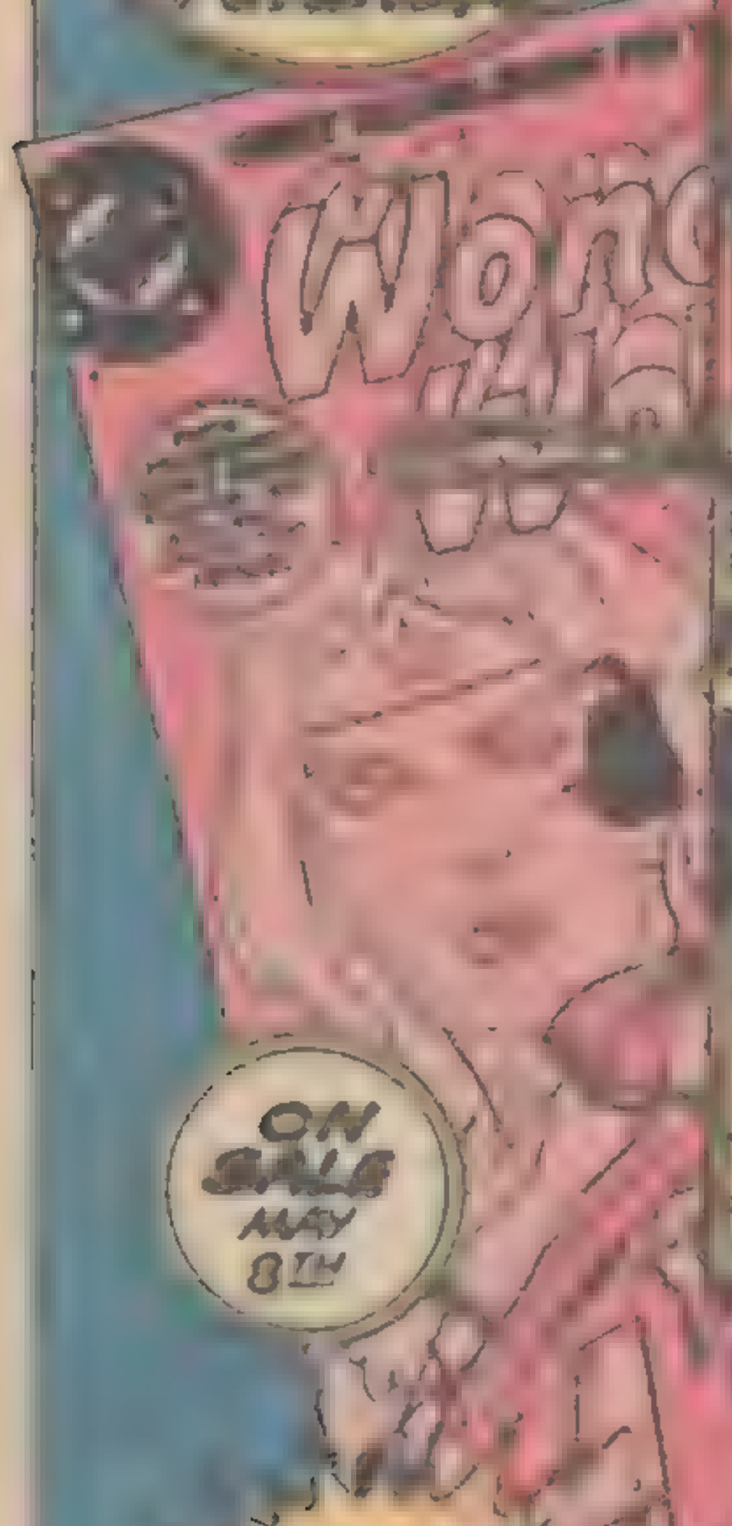
THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING FOR THE ALL-NEW Wonder Woman!

SENSATIONAL ISSUES THAT WILL CHANGE THE LIFE OF THE AMAZING AMAZON PRINCESS FOREVER!



ON SALE MAY 8TH

ON SALE APRIL 10TH

ON SALE JUNE 12TH

AN EPIC ADVENTURE YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!

AND AS IF THAT WASN'T ENOUGH, HERE COMES... **HUNTRESS!** IN HER OWN MONTHLY SERIES!

DC — WHERE THE ACTION KEEPS ON COMING!

5:59 THAT EVENING--A SCANT SIXTY SECONDS FROM AIR-TIME FOR THE WSBS EVENING NEWS...

NO SIGN OF CLARK ON THE DAILY PLANET FLOOR EITHER, JOSH! HE'S NOWHERE IN THE BUILDING!

BLAST! I KNEW THERE'D BE LAST MINUTE ASSIGNMENTS COULDN'T LAND SOONER OR LATER, HE WAS BOUND TO MISS A SHOW!

AN OMEGA GANG GAVE THEY CAPTURED HIM OUT IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING LAST AFTERNOON--AFTER DRIVING BACK FROM TAPING THE SKEPTICON SEGMENT IN BRAINBLEVILLE!

JOSH I'M WORRIED!

DON'T BE LANA--LEAVE THE WORRYING TO ME AND MY DETECTORS!

YOU'LL BE GOING ON SOLO TONIGHT!

AT THE STROKE OF SIX...

I'M GLAD LANE'S AT THE CHANNEL 6 NEWS DESK WITH THE 6 O'CLOCK REPORT! MY CO-ANCHOR CLARK KENT IS AWAY ON A SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT.

AT THE TOP OF THE NEWS THEY CAN'T

I'VE BEEN TO LANA LANG CLARK KENT IS AWAY ON "SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT"--AND IT'S TRUE! CLARK IS OUT OF TOWN ON SOME MYSTERIOUS ASSIGNMENT!

6 LAXY COMMUNICATIONS

WE'RE TAKING THE TAPE DIRECTLY TO THE L'IL CLARK! SEE YOU IN THE CONTROL BOOTH AT 5:30!

TILL THEN, A SKEPTICAL SLEUTHMAN HAS A JOB TO TACKLE BACK IN BRAINBLEVILLE!

JRE'S

IT WAS ROUGH GOING THROUGH WITH THAT TV TAPING -- ONCE MY SUPER-SENSES TOLD ME THE SKEPTICONS WEREN'T EVEN REMOTELY HUMAN--

-- WITH IT ACTING WITH VERY WELL BELOW PAR!

THEY MUST BE AN ADVANCED SPECIES OF ALIENS WITH THE ABILITY TO CAMOUFLAGE THEMSELVES AS EARTH PEOPLE!

WHICH MAKES THEIR ANTI-OUTER SPACE TIRADES ALL THE MORE BAFFLING!

I WANT TO KNOW WHY THEY'RE ON EARTH AND WHAT'S BEHIND THEIR PHONEY ACT!

THIS SHOULD BE A VERY ENLIGHTENING DISCUSSION - ALIEN TO ALIEN!

5

GREAT KRYPTON! THAT SAME CREATURE AGAIN!?!

STORY CONTINUED AFTER SPECIAL INSERT

GET THE NEWEST NUMBER YUM!

WILD CHERRY BUBBLE YUM

Now! Soft 'n Juicy

Bubble Yum

Wild Cherry

Bubble Gum

It's the newest Number Yum.
It blows big
beautiful bubbles.
And the yummy flavor lasts
a long, long, loooong time.

5 great flavors
and SUGARLESS.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST FIGHT IS IN THE WORKS!

SUPERMAN AND the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

PURSUE EVIL SIDE-BY-SIDE!

THEY'VE BANDED UP AGAINST THE VILLAINY OF DOCTOR DOOM AND THE PUNISHER!
THEY GET A LITTLE HELP FROM GUARDIAN OF ASGARD AND THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

THE TOP CREATIVE TALENTS IN COMICS JOIN FORCES TO BRING YOU THE COMIC BOOK EVENT OF THE YEAR! WATCH FOR IT! THIS SUMMER!!

SUPERMAN

THIS IS *SUPERMAN'S* LAST HEROIC ACT! AFTER HE *BLOWS* AWAY THE TORNADO, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO *THINK* STRAIGHT!

THE COMPUTER THAT SAVED METROPOLIS!

* STARRING *

THE TRS-80 COMPUTER WHIZ KIDS!

— Advertisement —

When a computer costs less than a or a then it's time to think about owning one!

Radio Shack is the company that brought computing to the masses with the introduction of its world-famous TRS-80 Model I system in 1977. By designing, engineering, and building it ourselves, we were able to produce a full computer — including a 12" video display — for $599.

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Who needs a computer? Now that's the key question. Remember when they asked who needs a calculator? Or a typewriter? The answer is: anyone who wants to save time, labor and money, and anyone who wants to catch up with Today . . . in order to cope with Tomorrow. Radio Shack and TRS-80 have made owning one a realizable dream, just like Henry Ford did with his fabulous Model T.

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Yes, I'm interested! Please rush me a copy of the latest TRS-80 catalog.

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1300 One Tandy Center
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Retail price may vary at individual stores and dealers

8:50 A.M.. ONLY *THIRTEEN MINUTES* TO GO BEFORE MY *CROWNING CATASTROPHE* STRIKES *METROPOLIS!* AND THEN IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF *HEARTBEATS* BEFORE CONTACT--

--WITH MY CAPED *TARGET*--

--*SUPERMAN!*

FIFTY-ONE MINUTES PAST *EIGHT*...

I'D BETTER REALLY *HUSTLE* IF I'M GOING TO FINISH THIS *MORNING PATROL* ACROSS *METROPOLIS* IN TIME TO MAKE MY 9 O'CLOCK *APPOINTMENT*--

--AND CARRY OUT A VERY SPECIAL *JOB* FOR *SUPERMAN!*

FOR YOUR OBSERVATION -- TWO DYNAMIC *MEN OF ACTION!*

ONE, A PARAGON OF *PERIL*-- THE INSIDIOUS MASTER OF VILLAINY KNOWN TO THE WORLD AS *MAJOR DISASTER!*

THE OTHER, A CAPED *CHAMPION* -- THE MIGHTY *MAN OF STEEL* WHO FIGHTS A NEVER-ENDING BATTLE FOR *TRUTH, JUSTICE,* AND THE *AMERICAN WAY!*

SUPERMAN

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

THE COMPUTERS THAT SAVED METROPOLIS!

WRITER: *CARY BATES*
ART: *JIM STARLIN & DICK GIORDANO*

SUPERMAN IN 'THE COMPUTERS THAT SAVED METROPOLIS' (July, 1980) is published by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York 10019 for Radio Shack, a division of Tandy Corporation, One Tandy Center, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, U.S.A. Copyright © 1980 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. Nothing may be reprinted in whole or in part without written permission from the publisher. Superman and Lana Lang are trademarks of and copyrighted by DC Comics Inc., Radio Shack, The Biggest Name In Little Computers, and TRS-80 are trademarks of Radio Shack, a division of the Tandy Corporation. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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SIX MINUTES LATER, IN A SIXTH GRADE CLASSROOM ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF METROPOLIS...

...AND YARROW, TIMOTHY--?

HERE, MS. WILSON!

VERY GOOD, CLASS! WE HAVE A 100% ATTENDANCE TODAY!

I TRUST TOO MANY OF YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED WHEN I ANNOUNCE YOUR ORAL *BOOK REPORTS* WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL *TOMORROW!*

I'M *NOT!* I COULD USE ANOTHER DAY TO *PRACTICE* IT!

WELL, *I'VE* BEEN READY TO DELIVER *MY REPORT* FOR A *WEEK!*

WHEN THERE'S *GOOD NEWS*... THERE USUALLY IS *BAD NEWS!*

NO BAD NEWS, KAREN... ONLY EVEN *BETTER* NEWS! AN *"OLD FRIEND"* OF MINE HAS PROMISED TO *DROP IN* THIS MORNING TO TAKE OVER TODAY'S LESSON!

:YAWWWNNN: JUST WHAT WE'VE ALL BEEN *WAITING* FOR, MS. WILSON -- A BORING TALK ON *COMPUTERS!*

I CAN'T THINK OF *ANYTHING* I'D RATHER HEAR ABOUT... EXCEPT MAYBE THE *HISTORY* OF *BRUSSELS SPROUTS!*

WE'LL GET TO BRUSSELS SPROUTS ANOTHER DAY, ALEC ...JUST FOR *YOU!*

BUT AS I WAS *ABOUT* TO SAY -- OUR *SUPER-GUEST* IS MAKING A SPECIAL TRIP HERE TODAY, JUST TO TALK WITH US ABOUT *COMPUTERS!*

AS YOU ALL KNOW, NEXT YEAR YOU'LL BE TAKING THE SCHOOL'S NEW *INTRODUCTORY COMPUTER COURSE...*

WHO IS THIS FRIEND OF YOURS, MS. WILSON... A COMPUTER EXPERT?

WELL...ER...YES! AS A MATTER OF FACT, HE'S *TOPS* IN HIS FIELD!

IT WOULD TAKE *HOURS* TO LIST *ALL* HIS SPECTACULAR *FEATS* AND *ACCOMPLISHMENTS*...SO I WON'T *EVEN* BEGIN TO *TRY*! BUT I *WILL* TELL YOU *THIS*--

"HE'S BEEN HONORED AND ACCLAIMED IN EVERY COUNTRY ON EARTH, NOT ONLY GAINING AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION...

"...BUT AN *INTERPLANETARY* ONE AS WELL!

"FOR YOU SEE, OUR DISTINGUISHED VISITOR IS ABLE TO TRAVEL FROM ONE PLANET TO ANOTHER FASTER THAN *YOU* OR I CAN TRAVEL ACROSS *METROPOLIS!*"

LET'S SEE NOW... MY FRIEND SAID HE'D *BE HERE* AT 9 O'CLOCK *SHARP!* SO WE CAN *COUNT* ON IT!

ACCORDING TO MY *DIGITAL WATCH*--

CIVICS

HISTORY I

--THE *TIME* IS PRECISELY 8 59:55!

ENGLISH

THAT LEAVES ONLY *FIVE* SECONDS TO GO...

FOUR...THREE ...TWO...ONE...

...ZERO--9:00 ON THE BUTTON!

CLASS, SAY HELLO TO YOUR GUEST-TEACHER!

I DON'T *BELIEVE* THIS IS REALLY *HAPPENING!*

OH WOW!

WILL THE REST OF THE SCHOOL BE *JEALOUS!*

WELL, *SUPERMAN*... I THINK I CAN SAFELY SAY MY STUDENTS WERE *SURPRISED* AND *THRILLED* BY YOUR *ENTRANCE!*

IF THEY WEREN'T SO *TONGUE-TIED* RIGHT NOW... THEY'D TELL YOU HOW MUCH THEY *APPRECIATE* YOUR TAKING TIME TO BE HERE!

GLAD TO BE OF SERVICE, MARGARET ...ER, MS. WILSON! AS YOU CAN SEE, I STOPPED OFF ON MY WAY HERE TO PICK UP SOME VERY *SPECIAL* EQUIPMENT!

GOSH, *SUPERMAN*... WHAT'S IN THE *BLACK CASES?*

IT WOULD BE HARD TO *BELIEVE, SHANNA*... WITHOUT GIVING YOU SOME *BACKGROUND INFORMATION* FIRST!

Y-YOU CALLED ME *SHANNA?!* BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW MY *NAME?*

SIMPLE! I BET *SUPERMAN* USED HIS *X-RAY VISION* TO READ MS. WILSON'S *SEATING CHART!*

RIGHT YOU ARE, *JASON!* AND NOW THAT I KNOW *WHO'S WHO*... LET'S GET TO THE REASON I'M HERE!

I THOUGHT I'D *START* BY FILLING YOU IN WITH A QUICK RUN-DOWN ON THE *ORIGINS* OF THE MODERN COMPUTER!

IT CAN'T BE QUICK ENOUGH FOR ME...

SOMEONE *WAKE ME UP* WHEN HE'S FINISHED! *HISTORY* AND *COMPUTERS* ARE *BORING* ENOUGH BY THEMSELVES--

--BUT *TOGETHER?*

GOOD NIGHT!

SORRY TO HEAR YOU'RE *NODDING OFF*, ALEC!

I GUESS THAT MEANS YOU'LL BE TOO *TIRED* TO *STEP OUTSIDE* WITH THE *REST* OF US!

AND OUTSIDE AT THAT MOMENT, A FEW MILES AWAY--

IT'S HEADED THIS WAY!

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

WAHHH!

DON'T BE AFRAID, CINDY! MOMMY WILL SAVE YOU!

WHAT IN THE WORLD --A HUMAN *STAMPEDE!*

WHATEVER IT IS THEY'RE ALL *RUNNING* FROM...IT *SEEMS* TO BE COMING *AROUND THE CORNER!*

THAT ROARING *NOISE*--SOUNDS LIKE A DOZEN *FREIGHT TRAINS* ALL AT ONCE!

DS

BOOOSHH.

GREAT THUNDER!

MEANWHILE, ATOP A CERTAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING...

OKAY, SUPERMAN... THANKS TO YOU WE'RE UP ON THE ROOF! BUT I KNOW YOU JUST DIDN'T BRING US UP HERE FOR THE HECK!

WHAT GIVES?

GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE STILL WITH US AND AWAKE, ALEC!

TODAY'S COMPUTERS HAD THEIR BEGINNING IN THE UNITED STATES WHEN THE WORLD'S FIRST ALL-ELECTRONIC UNIT WAS COMPLETED IN THE FALL OF 1945.

IT WAS SO LARGE IT HAD TO BE INSTALLED IN A 30 X 50-FOOT ROOM.

"THE HEARTS OF THIS HUGE 30-TON 'ELECTRONIC BRAIN' CONTAINED 18,000 VACUUM TUBES, 70,000 RESISTORS, 10,000 CONDENSERS, AND 6,000 SWITCHES. INPUT AND OUTPUT WERE BY PUNCHED CARDS WHICH WERE USED TO GET A 'PRINT-OUT' OF THE ANSWERS.

... JUST LOOK *AROUND* YOU! THESE EARLY COMPUTERS ACTUALLY FILLED AN AREA AS *HUGE* AS THIS SECTION OF THE ROOF YOU'RE STANDING ON!

GOL-LEE! I DON'T EVEN SEE HOW YOU COULD GET SOMETHING *THAT BIG* INTO A ROOM!

THEY PROBABLY BUILT THE COMPUTER *FIRST*--THEN BUILT A ROOM *AROUND* IT, DODO!

SMART ALEC! YOU THINK YOU KNOW *EVERYTHING!*

"THERE WERE NO VIDEO SCREENS LIKE THE COMPUTERS WE HAVE TODAY. NOW..."

"... AND PLEASE BE REMINDED... A COMPUTER IS MORE THAN A CALCULATOR. COMPUTERS CAN ALSO ORGANIZE AND REMEMBER WORDS, ANALYZE INFORMATION, AND MAKE COMPARISONS... ALL THIS IN SECONDS.

"IN FACT, ITS CAPABILITIES ARE ALMOST UNLIMITED. BUT IT HAS TO BE PROGRAMMED FIRST-- FED INFORMATION AND TOLD WHAT TO DO.

"TODAY'S MICROCOMPUTERS, (THE OLD-TIME 'BIG COMPUTERS' SQUEEZED DOWN TO THE SIZE OF A SMALL TV-SET ATTACHED TO A TYPEWRITER-LIKE KEYBOARD) CAN TEACH MATH, ENGLISH, OTHER LANGUAGES, AND HISTORY...

"IT CAN PLAY GAMES, PERFORM HOUSEHOLD TASKS, AND SAVE TIME AND MONEY IN MANY SMALL BUSINESS OPERATIONS."

THEN, OF COURSE, THERE'S THE *SPACE-PROGRAM!* WITHOUT THE *VITAL* ROLE PLAYED BY *COMPUTERS*, OUR *ASTRONAUTS* WOULD NEVER HAVE MADE IT TO THE *MOON* AND BACK!

THE *APOLLO PROGRAM* WAS A *TEAM* EFFORT BETWEEN MAN AND MACHINE...

"... AND WHEN IT COMES TO MORE RECENT UNMANNED MISSIONS...

"... AND IT PROVED TO HUNDREDS AND LATER THE *LIFE-LIKE* ROBOTIC *CHALLENGER* AND ITS BOMB-EXPLORATORY VEHICLE ON THE MOON'S SURFACE!

"... LIKE THE *VOYAGER* PROBES WE SENT TO MARS... THE *VOYAGER* PROBE THAT RECENTLY SENT BACK PHOTOGRAPHS OF *JUPITER* AND *SATURN*...

"... COMPUTERS WERE IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF PRACTICALLY EVERY PHASE OF THESE COMPLEX SPACE-EXPLORATIONS!"

COMPUTERS TODAY MIGHT STILL BE THE SIZE OF BUS TERMINALS... IF IT WEREN'T FOR A TREMENDOUS DISCOVERY IN 1948 THAT REVOLUTIONIZED THE ENTIRE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY!

"A TRIO OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS-- JOHN BARDEEN, WILLIAM SHOCKLEY, AND WALTER BRATTAIN-- COMBINED RESEARCH AND EFFORTS TO INVENT THE TRANSISTOR...

"...AN ACHIEVEMENT SO REVOLUTIONARY, THEY WERE JOINTLY AWARDED THAT YEAR'S NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS!"

AVERAGING ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE ERASER-TIP ON A PENCIL, TRANSISTORS QUICKLY BEGAN TO REPLACE BULKY RADIO TUBES!

AND THE AGE OF MINIATURIZATION WAS BORN!

"THE OLD RADIO-TUBE WAS MANY TIMES LARGER THAN THE TRANSISTOR ...WHICH REVOLUTIONIZED THE FIELD OF ELECTRONICS AROUND THE WORLD.

"IT SPEEDED THE MOVE TO MINIATURIZED ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS...

...TRANSISTOR RADIOS AND SOLID-STATE STEREO HI-FI EQUIPMENT.

THE NEXT STEP IN THE MINIATURIZATION FIELD WAS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTEGRATED CIRCUIT LIKE THE ONE I HOLD IN MY HAND.

"COMPUTERS MADE FROM THESE COMPLEX INTEGRATED CIRCUITS ARE OFTEN CALLED MICROPROCESSORS."

AS THE ACTION ACE USHERS THE STUDENTS BACK INTO THE CLASSROOM...

OH WOW!

WHERE DID THOSE COME FROM, MS. WILSON?

FAR-OUT!

REMEMBER WHEN SHANNA ASKED SUPERMAN WHAT HE WAS CARRYING IN THE BLACK CASES HE BROUGHT ALONG?

YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE ANSWER...

TRS-80 MICROCOMPUTERS WITH USER MANUALS AND 12-INCH VIDEO DISPLAYS!

LITTLE COMPUTERS LIKE THE TRS-80 CAN PERFORM CALCULATIONS, SOLVE PROBLEMS, PLAY GAMES, COMPARE AND ANALYZE INFORMATION...

...MORE EFFICIENTLY AND FASTER THAN THE OLD ROOM-SIZE COMPUTERS--BUT MOST IMPORTANT, THEY ARE CREATING A REVOLUTION IN OUR WAY OF LIFE.

IT USED TO BE THAT A COMPUTER ABLE TO DO THESE THINGS WOULD HAVE COST A FORTUNE..

..BUT TODAY YOU CAN BUY A MICROCOMPUTER FOR THE PRICE OF A GOOD CAMERA OR TV SET!

SOLID STATE ELECTRONICS AND MODERN ASSEMBLY LINE PRODUCTION [illegible] ARE BRINGING THE COST OF MICROCOMPUTE[illegible] WITHIN REACH OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE... SCHOOLS AS LEARNING AIDS... AND S[illegible] BUSINESSES."

MICROCOMPUTERS LIKE THE *TRS-80* ARE EASY TO OPERATE WHEN YOU FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS IN THE "USER'S MANUAL."

IT ALSO TELLS YOU ABOUT THE SPECIAL "COMPUTER LANGUAGE" CALLED "*BASIC*" [NICKNAME FOR: BEGINNERS ALL-PURPOSE SYMBOLIC INSTRUCTION CODE] AND HAS SAMPLE COMPUTER PROGRAMS.

"MY BLACKBOARD SKETCH SHOWS SECTIONS OF A COMPUTER..."

MATH

MEMORY

INPUT

KEYBOARD

VIDEO UNIT

NOT NOTICED BY THE CLASS, THE EXPRESSION ON *SUPERMAN'S* FACE HAS CHANGED. HE SEEMS TO BE LISTENING FOR SOMETHING AS HE TELLS THE CLASS...

OKAY... IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR YOU TO OPEN THE MANUAL, READ ABOUT "COMPUTER LANGUAGE"... AND SET UP A PRACTICE PROGRAM.

DO YOU *BELIEVE* IT? THEY'RE NO BIGGER THAN MY MOTHER'S *TYPEWRITER!*

AND EACH ONE HAS ITS OWN *TV SCREEN*, TOO!

THEY LOOK LIKE THEY CAME STRAIGHT OUT OF A *SCI-FI MOVIE!*

HMMM... THAT'S *ODD*...

...THE CLASS IS SO EXCITED ABOUT THE *TRS-80'S* THEY HAVEN'T *NOTICED* YET--

--THAT *SUPERMAN* HAS MYSTERIOUSLY *DISAPPEARED* FROM THE SCENE!

WHATEVER SUDDENLY CALLED HIM AWAY MUST BE A *SERIOUS* EMERGENCY...

THE [illegible] ON THE *MAN OF STEEL'S* FACE AT THIS MOMENT WOULD CLEARLY CONFIRM MS. WILSON'S NAGGING HUNCH...

IT TOOK AWHILE FOR *MY SUPER-HEARING* TO IDENTIFY THE DISTANT *ROAR* I *WAS* PICKING UP!

BUT WHEN I *DID*--

--I KNEW THIS WAS A *JOB* FOR *SUPERMAN!*

AT [illegible] SEVERAL MILES AWAY -- THE SOUND OF FRIGHTENED VOICES [illegible] SHAMBLES OF WHAT WAS ONCE A FAMILY'S HOME.

ARE YOU SURE TOMMY'S ALL RIGHT? NO BROKEN BONES?

I'M SURE, DEAR! HE'S JUST FRIGHTENED...

MOMMY.. DADDY ;SOB: HOW ARE WE GONNA GET OUT OF HERE?

[illegible] NEXT MOMENT, AS IF IN ANSWER TO [illegible] QUESTION...

I'LL GET YOU OUT... SAFE AND SOUND!

IT'S A MIRACLE--!

--IT'S SUPERMAN!

A TORNADO STRUCK WITHOUT WARNING! HOW ON EARTH DID YOU EVER FIND US UNDER ALL THAT RUBBLE?

I CAN TELL YOU THAT, MOMMY! HE DID IT WITH HIS SUPER-HEARING AND SUPER-VISION!

IF YOU GOOD PEOPLE WILL EXCUSE ME... I'VE GOT TO TAME A WILD TORNADO!

THANKS AGAIN, SUPERMAN

;WHEEE! LOOK AT HIM GO!

QUESTION ONE-- WHAT'S A TORNADO DOING TEARING THROUGH METROPOLIS IN THE OFF-SEASON... WHEN WEATHER CONDITIONS INDICATE FAIR SKIES?

AND QUESTION TWO--WHAT DO I DO TO SOLVE THE ANSWER TO QUESTION ONE?

EEEEKKK! WE'VE STOPPED SPINNING AROUND--AND ARE SHOOTING OUT OF THE *TORNADO-FUNNEL!*

CLOSE YOUR EYES--IT'S NOT GONNA BE *PRETTY* WHEN WE *HIT!*

WE MUST'VE BEEN *FLUNG* OFF...BY *CENTRIFUGAL FORCE!*

W-WHAT'S HAPPENING *NOW?*

WE'RE *SLOWING DOWN*...ALMOST LIKE THE CAR IS *FLYING* BY ITSELF!

AND AFTER A PERFECTLY-EXECUTED *FOUR-POINT* LANDING...

C-CAN I *OPEN* MY EYES YET?

YOU'D *BETTER*--'CAUSE YOU WON'T *BELIEVE* THIS IF YOU DON'T *SEE* IT FOR YOURSELF!

NOW FOR THE TORNADO--!

YOU'RE *RIGHT*--I *DON'T* BELIEVE IT! HOW DID WE LAND SO SAFELY...AND *SOFTLY*--?

THERE'S YOUR ANSWER, STACY--

--TACKLING THAT TORNADO *HEAD-ON!*

AND USING *SUPER-INHALATION* TO TAKE IN MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF *AIR* AROUND HIM AS *AMMUNITION*...

TORNADOES ARE KNOWN TO PRODUCE THE MOST *VIOLENT* WINDS IN NATURE--

--BUT NOT EVEN A *TORNADO* CAN STAND UP AGAINST THE FULL FORCE OF MY *SUPER-BREATH!*

DO YOU SEE THAT?

HE KNOCKED OUT THE TWISTER WITH A SINGLE BLAST OF *SUPER-BREATH!*

WHOOOSH!

MEANWHILE BACK AT THE CLASSROOM.

OH WOW M.S. WILSON... WRITING *PROGRAMS* ON THE *TRS-80* IS AS EASY AS USING A TYPEWRITER!

THAT'S RIGHT, SHANNA! ALWAYS REMEMBER TO HIT THE *ENTER* BUTTON -- IT TELLS THE COMPUTER TO TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE TYPED... AND ACT ACCORDINGLY!

10 PRINT "HELLO THERE." I AM [illegible]

PLEASE, MISS WILSON, MAY I TRY ANOTHER ONE OF THE *SAMPLE PROBLEMS* FROM OUR USER'S MANUAL?

JUST A MOMENT, SHANNA! I HEAR *SOMETHING* COMING THIS WAY -- GETTING LOUDER AND *LOUDER!*

IT SOUNDS LIKE--

--*SUPERMAN!*

TWICE IN ONE DAY--! HOW LUCKY CAN WE GET!

HELLO, CLASS...

...I SEE *SOME* OF *YOU* HAVE ALREADY STARTED TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE TWO *TRS-80 MICROCOMPUTERS* I BROUGHT ALONG!

AND DOING *WELL!* SHANNA AND WILLIAM HERE HAVE BEEN PRACTICING A FEW OF THE SAMPLE PROBLEMS FROM THE MANUAL!

SUPERMAN...WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE ABOUT *GIANT COMPUTERS* OF YEARS AGO THAT USED TO WEIGH *30 TONS* --

--CAN SOMETHING AS *SMALL* AS A *TRS-80* DO EVERYTHING THOSE *GIANT COMPUTERS* DID?

EVERYTHING AND *MORE*, WILLIAM!

IN FACT, WHEN YOU'RE SITTING BEHIND A *TRS-80*... EACH OF YOU HAS THE POTENTIAL TO THINK AND SOLVE PROBLEMS AS *FAST* AS A *SUPERMAN!*

PLEASE, *SUPERMAN*... CAN WE HAVE A ~~RACE~~? MY ~~TRS-80~~ AGAINST YOUR *SUPER-BRAIN?*

AN EXCELLENT IDEA, SHANNA! JUST PICK OUT ONE OF THE *PROBLEMS* FROM THE MANUAL!

THIS I GOTTA SEE--!

HERE, SUPERMAN, I FOUND OUR *PROBLEM!*

OKAY, SHANNA-- FIRST *ENTER* THE PROGRAM ON YOUR *TRS-80!*

WHILE YOU'RE SETTING IT UP, I'LL GET A PIECE OF *CHALK!*

BE RIGHT WITH YOU, *SUPERMAN!*

READY *SUPERMAN*...I'VE ENTERED THE PROGRAM! I'LL READ YOU THE *PROBLEM*--

CELSIUS TEMPERATURE IS EQUAL TO FIVE-NINTHS TIMES WHAT'S LEFT AFTER 32° IS SUBTRACTED FROM THE *FAHRENHEIT TEMPERATURE.*

```
10 REM * FAHRENHEIT TO
   CELSIUS CONVERSION *
20 F=65
30 C=(F-32) * (5/9)
40 PRINT F; "DEGREES
   FAHRENHEIT"; C; "DEGREES
   CELSIUS"
```

THE *PROBLEM* IS... CONVERT *65° FAHRENHEIT TO CELSIUS!*

--AND GO!

LESS THAN A MINUTE OF AN EYE LATER...

HOW ABOUT THAT-- IT'S A *TIE!*

65 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT = 18 3333° CELSIUS

65° FAHRENHEIT = 18 3333° CELSIUS

AND THEY BOTH CAME UP WITH THE *SAME ANSWER!*

GEE... THE *TRS-80* REALLY *DOES* THINK AS FAST AS *SUPERMAN!*

SIMULTANEOUSLY THE "*AQUAMAN COMPUTER*" ATTACKS THE PROBLEM WITH HIS *SUPER-BRAIN*... AS SHANNA PRESSES THE "*RUN*" BUTTON ON HER *TRS-80!*

FAN-TASTIC! IF A GIRL CAN USE A TRS-80 AND TIE IN A RACE WITH SUPERMAN... THEN A SMART GUY LIKE ME OUGHTA BE ABLE TO BEAT HIM!

A SMART ALEC, YOU MEAN!

ALL RIGHT... YOU'RE ON! YOUR TURN TO CHALLENGE SUPERMAN!

I'VE PICKED OUT A PROBLEM... JUST GIVE ME A LITTLE WHILE TO ENTER THE PROGRAM!

READY WHEN YOU ARE, ALEC!

I HOPE YOU BEAT HIM GOOD, SUPERMAN!

HERE WE GO!

IF THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF A CIRCLE IS FOUND BY MULTIPLYING ITS DIAMETER TIMES π (3.14) FIND THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF A CIRCLE WITH A DIAMETER OF 35 FEET!

--GO!

ONCE AGAIN, THE METROPOLIS MARVEL PUTS HIS SUPER-BRAIN TO WORK-- BUT THIS TIME WITH AN ALARMING DIFFERENCE...

GREAT KRYPTON! WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY HEAD?

IT'S AS IF MY THINKING PROCESSES ARE "FUZZED OVER" WITH STATIC!

LET'S GO, MAN OF STEEL! I DON'T HAVE ALL DAY, YOU KNOW!

GOOD GRIEF! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

ALEC DID IT! HE ACTUALLY BEAT SUPERMAN TO THE PUNCH!

ANOTHER CONTEST-- AND A GIANT SUPERBRAIN FINALLY PUTS HIS CIRCUITS TO THE BOARD..

WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME! ONE-HUNDRED-NINE POINT NINE FEET, HE WRITES!

SHANNA, YOU WANT TO READ THE ANSWER THAT FLASHED ON MY TRS-80 SCREEN A FULL FIVE SECONDS AGO?

ONE-HUNDRED-NINE POINT NINE FEET!

THE CIRCLE'S CIRCUMFERENCE IS 109.9 FEET

I GUESS YOU'RE NOT SO *SUPER* AFTER ALL -- NOT WHEN YOU'RE UP AGAINST A *TRS-80* AND SOMEONE WITH REAL *BRAIN-POWER* LIKE *ALEC THE GREAT!*

OH *WOW*... YOU HAVE TO *DO* SOMETHING, *SUPERMAN!* TELL H M YOU *LET* H M *WIN* AS A JOKE... *PLEASE!*

I CAN'T DO THAT, SHANNA! WHAT HAPPENED JUST NOW WAS *FOR REAL!* ALEC BEAT ME FAIR AND SQUARE!

I'M AFRAID IT'S TIME TO THANK *SUPERMAN* AND SAY *GOODBYE* NOW, CLASS! HE... ER, HAS OTHER *SUPER-JOBS* TO DO!

I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR YOU -- AT LEAST YOU'RE A *GOOD LOSER!*

I DON'T THINK THE *KIDS* NOTICED... BUT THAT *TROUBLED LOOK* ON *SUPERMAN'S* FACE DURING THE SECOND PROBLEM MEANT HE REALIZED SOMETHING WAS SERIOUSLY *WRONG!*

WHATEVER HIS *PROBLEM* IS -- I HAVE A FEELING IT MIGHT BE *MAJOR!*

AN *IRONIC* CHOICE OF LANGUAGE, MS. WILSON -- FOR AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE FLYING FIGURE OF THE *MAN OF MIGHT* HAS JUST APPEARED ON ONE OF THE FAR-REACHING *MONITOR SCREENS* OF... *MAJOR DISASTER!*

IF MY CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT, *SUPERMAN* SHOULD BE STARTING TO REALIZE SOMETHING IS DRASTICALLY *WRONG* WITH H.M!

IF ONLY HE *KNEW*...

"... I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE *TORNADO* WHICH STRUCK METROPOLIS TODAY!

[illegible] WITH ORDERS [illegible] THE ARK!

"I CALCULATED MY FOE WOULD USE HIS *SUPER-BREATH* TO [illegible] THE TORNADO, INTENDING TO [illegible] INHALING THE [illegible] INVISIBLE *KRYPTONITE CRYSTALS!*

"*CRYSTALS* I SYNTHESIZED *NOT* TO WEAKEN HIS *SUPER-POWERS*... NO, THAT WOULD BE FAR TOO *SIMPLE* AND *OBVIOUS!*"

INSTEAD, MY *K-CRYSTALS* ARE MOUNTING A MASSIVE *MICROSCOPIC ATTACK* ON THE *NERVE CELLS* INSIDE HIS SO CALLED *SUPER-BRAIN!*

AND WITH MOST *GRATIFYING* AND *REWARDING* RESULTS...

...ACCORDING TO WHAT I'M OBSERVING ON MY MONITOR SCREENS!

HEY, *SUPERMAN*-- WATCH *WHERE* YOU'RE FLYIN', WILL YA? YOU JUST COST US A DAY'S *WORK!*

SORRY ABOUT THAT, FRIEND!

KA-POW!

I'VE GOT *BIG TROUBLE!* NOW IT'S GETTING DIFFICULT FOR ME TO *CONTROL* MY OWN FLIGHT-PATH!

THE "*FUZZ EFFECT*" PLAGUING MY BRAIN HAS BEEN GROWING *WORSE* BY THE SECOND!

THE *END RESULT* MAKES IT EXTREMELY *DIFFICULT* TO MANAGE AND CONTROL MY *SUPER-POWERS!*

THAT'S MY *APARTMENT BUILDING* COMING UP!

MUST TRY TO MAKE A *SUPER-FAST* LANDING INTO *CLARK KENT'S* OPEN WINDOW!

THE *"STATIC"* SEEMS TO BE INTERFERING WITH MY *NERVOUS SYSTEM*... JUMBLING THE SIGNALS MY *BRAIN* SENDS THROUGHOUT MY BODY!

AND AS THE FIRST OF STOCK MARKETS TO [illegible] THROUGH THE WORLD'S [illegible]...

THE FUZZ-EFFECT MADE ME OVERSHOOT THE MARK!

PLUNGING THROUGH THE FLOOR OF MY APARTMENT!

WHEW! FINALLY MANAGED TO STOP MYSELF--ON THE FLOOR BELOW MY OWN!

IT'S LUCKY THE TENANT IS ALWAYS OUT THIS TIME OF DAY! I SHOULD BE ABLE TO MANAGE MY SUPER-POWERS ENOUGH TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE BEFORE HE COMES HOME!

BUT THEN WHAT? HOW IS A SUPERMAN SUPPOSED TO FUNCTION IN THIS CONDITION?

I DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME...

...I ONLY KNOW I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THE WORST IS YET TO COME!

AND COME IT DOES--AT 9 [illegible] FOLLOWING MORNING, AS A GRIM-FACED VISAGE AND VOICE SUDDENLY CUT INTO TV AND RADIO BROADCASTS THROUGHOUT THE AREA...

ATTENTION, PEOPLE OF METROPOLIS... THIS IS MAJOR DISASTER SPEAKING! THE PRECARIOUS FATE OF YOUR FAIR CITY NOW RESTS IN MY HANDS--

--BUT FOR ONCE, YOUR CAPED CHAMPION FROM KRYPTON WILL BE OF NO HELP TO YOU WHATSOEVER!

AND TO PROVE WHAT I SAY IS NO IDLE BOAST.. I HEREBY ANNOUNCE BETWEEN NOW AND NOON I WILL USE MY POWERS TO CAUSE THREE POTENTIAL DISASTERS!

AND ALTHOUGH I'M SURE SUPERMAN WILL DO HIS UTMOST TO AVERT EACH DISASTER AS IT OCCURS...

...I AM DOUBLY SURE HE WILL FAIL MISERABLY EVERY TIME!

MARK MY WORDS WELL, PEOPLE OF *METROPOLIS*...

...THE *MAN OF STEEL'S* FINAL HOURS ARE *NUMBERED* NOW...

...AND THE REIGN OF *MAJOR DISASTER* HAS JUST *BEGUN!*

AND JUST IN CASE YOU HAPPEN TO BE *LISTENING* TO THIS BROADCAST, *SUPERMAN*... I *KNOW* YOU'LL DO EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER TO TRY AND *STOP* ME!

AND *THAT'S* WHEN THE RUN WILL REALLY *START!*

SOME 35 MINUTES LATER, IN A CERTAIN *FAMILIAR* CLASSROOM...

...AND ALSO IN THIS MORNING'S NEWS IS THE SIMULTANEOUS *BREAKDOWN* OF *COMPUTERS* WHICH HAVE *CRIPPLED* EVERY MAJOR COMPUTER *SYSTEM* THROUGHOUT THE AREA!

MORE ON THIS STORY AS THE CRISIS DEVELOPS!

WELL! THE WORD *CRISIS* CERTAINLY APPLIES HERE, CLASS! WHILE WE'RE WAITING TO HEAR MORE ON THIS GRAVE SITUATION, MAYBE WE CAN APPLY WHAT WE'VE *LEARNED* THE PAST FEW DAYS!

LET'S DISCUSS THE EFFECT THIS *COMPUTER BREAKDOWN* COULD HAVE ON OUR EVERYDAY LIVES... AND REVIEW THE MANY WAYS COMPUTERS HAVE BEEN FAITHFULLY SERVING US!

HUNH--? HOW COME MY DESK IS *SH-SHAKING?*

MS. WILSON... MS. WILSON-- I THINK WE'RE HAVING AN EARTHQUAKE!

SORRY ABOUT THE FLOOR, MARGARET... I'LL REPAIR THE DAMAGE LATER!

OH WOW! SUPERMAN --AGAIN.!!

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A DRAMATIC ENTRANCE!

I WAS FORCED TO TAKE AN UNDERGROUND ROUTE, FOR SAFETY'S SAKE! I CAN'T RISK MAKING TOO MANY FLYING ENTRANCES..

--NOT WITH THE HANDICAP THAT MAJOR DISASTER HAS SADDLED ME WITH!

I KNEW IT! I HAD A FEELING SOMETHING WAS WRONG WHEN YOU LEFT US YESTERDAY!

AND AFTER THE METROPOLIS MARVEL EXPLAINS THE DIABOLIC KRYPTONITE-INDUCED "FUZZ-EFFECT" WHICH HAS HAMPERED HIS SUPER-POWERS...

...AND THAT'S WHY I'M SURE THE CITY-WIDE COMPUTER BREAKDOWNS ARE ALSO THE WORK OF MAJOR DISASTER!

I DON'T GET IT, SUPERMAN! WHAT DO THE COMPUTERS HAVE TO DO WITH YOU?

IT'S ALL PART OF HIS DIABOLICAL PLAN TO KEEP ME OUT OF ACTION!

MY SUPER-BRAIN, ALEC, CONTROLS MY POWERS IN MUCH THE SAME WAY THOSE BIG COMPUTERS PERFORM THEIR FUNCTIONS!

MAJOR DISASTER WAS SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW I COULD HAVE RIGGED UP A MICRO-WAVE RELAY WITH ONE OF THOSE COMPUTER SYSTEMS..

OH I SEE...

...THE COMPUTERS COULD DO THE INSTANT *COMPUTATIONS* AND *CALCULATIONS* YOUR *BRAIN* WOULD NORMALLY DO, SO YOU COULD STILL USE YOUR SUPER-POWERS!

RIGHT ON THE BUTTON SHANNA!

MAJOR DISASTER WAS THOROUGH ENOUGH TO KNOCK EVERY '*MAJOR*' COMPUTER OUT OF COMMISSION...

BUT *TWO* CERTAIN *MICRO-COMPUTERS* HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE *KNOWN* ABOUT--

-- YOUR *TRS-80 S!*

I HAVE A *PLAN* ...BUT I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR COOPERATION... AND *TWO VOLUNTEERS!* WHO--?

PLEASE TAKE *ME*, SUPERMAN--

--AND *ME!* I WAS *WRONG* THE WAY I BEHAVED BEFORE... AND WANT TO HELP OUT!

SOMEHOW I HAD A FEELING *YOU TWO* WOULD BE THE *FIRST* ON YOUR FEET!

AND AS SOON AS SHANNA AND ALEC TAKE THEIR SEATS BEHIND THE *TRS-80 S* AND SWITCH THEM ON...

I BROUGHT THESE *MICROPHONE HEAD-SETS* ALONG SO WE'LL BE ABLE TO *COMMUNICATE* EVEN IF I'M *HUNDREDS* OF MILES AWAY!

I'LL BE SPEAKING TO YOU THROUGH A *MINI-MICROPHONE* I'VE INSERTED INTO THE COLLAR OF MY COSTUME!

WE'RE BOTH *READY* WHEN YOU ARE, *SUPERMAN!* BUT TELL US--

--HOW ARE YOU GOING TO KNOW *WHEN* AND *WHERE* THESE THREE *DISASTERS* ARE GOING TO *STRIKE?*

SINCE 9 A.M. I'VE BEEN PERIODICALLY *SCANNING* THE METROPOLIS AREA WITH SWEEPING BEAMS OF *TELESCOPIC VISION*--

--SEARCHING FOR A *TRACE* OF THE *ENERGY-RESIDUE* THAT INDICATES *MAJOR DISASTER* HAS BEEN ON THE SCENE!

SO FAR I HAVEN'T SPOTTED ANY--

CORRECTION-- WE'RE IN *BUSINESS*! I'VE JUST ZEROED-IN ON THE *FIRST* ENERGY-TRAIL...

...IN TIME TO SEE THE DEVASTATING *RESULT*--

--A POWERFUL *LIGHTNING BOLT* THAT HAS KNOCKED A *JETLINER* OUT OF THE *SKY*!

GOT TO POUR ON THE SPEED! THE PLANE'S IN A *DEATH-DIVE* AND EVERY MICRO-SECOND COUNTS!

SHANNA AND I ARE PICKING UP YOUR VOICE *LOUD* AND *CLEAR* ON OUR HEADSETS, *SUPERMAN*!

OUR *TRS-80's* ARE HUMMING AND READY--

STAND BY! I'LL BE MAKING TRUE *VISUAL CONTACT* ONCE I CLEAR THE *THUNDERCLOUDS* AHEAD!

ALL RIGHT, TEAM, HERE GOES! ACCORDING TO MY SUPER-VISION:

THE JETLINER IS PLUMMETING ON A *44 DEGREE* DOWNWARD COURSE AT *505 MILES PER HOUR*...

...AND GRAVITY IS PULLING DOWNWARD AT 32 FEET PER SECOND!

IN ADDITION--THE THUNDERSTORM IS WHIPPING UP A POWERFUL *WIND* TOWARD ME AT *60 MILES PER HOUR!*

WHAT I NEED TO *KNOW* IS *HOW FAST* I SHOULD FLY TO COMPENSATE FOR THE *WIND* AND STILL REACH THE *JETLINER* BEFORE IT *CRASHES* TO THE GROUND!

URGENT REMINDER! IF YOUR *ANSWER* IS *OFF* BY THE *SLIGHTEST MARGIN*--I'LL *MISS* THE CRUCIAL *INTERCEPTION!*

AND WITH THE *FUZZ-EFFECT* HANDICAP SLOWING ME UP... I WON'T GET A *SECOND CHANCE* AT SAVING THOSE HELPLESS PASSENGERS!

KEEP YOUR *CAPE* ON, *SUPERMAN* --AND FLY IN A *HOLDING PATTERN* WHILE *SHANNA* AND I ENTER OUR *PROGRAMS* WITH THE INFORMATION YOU GAVE US!

ALEC AND I ARE *BOTH* COMPUTING THE ANSWER ON OUR SEPARATE *TRS-80'S* ...TO MAKE *DOUBLY SURE* THEY *MATCH!*

THEN--AS ALEC AND SHANNA RACE TO *RUN* THE IDENTICAL *PROGRAMS* THEY'VE PUNCHED UP ON THEIR *TRS-80'S*...

DOES MY ANSWER JIBE WITH *YOURS*, SHANNA?

CHECK! LET'S GIVE IT TO *SUPERMAN!*

A MOMENT LATER, SUPERMAN GOES INTO COMPUTERIZED ACTION...

COME IN, SUPERMAN! PLEASE -- TELL US WHAT'S HAPPENING!

CONTACT!

DISASTER ONE HAS BEEN AVERTED... THANKS TO YOU TWO AND YOUR TRS-80'S!

HOORAY! HE DID IT! SUPERMAN WAS RIGHT ON TARGET AND GRABBED THE JETLINER IN TIME!

AND AFTER THE MAN OF RIGHT HAS SAFELY DEPOSITED THE STRICKEN JETLINER ON THE NEAREST RUNWAY...

ALL RIGHT, SUPERMAN... ALEC AND I HAVE PUSHED OUR "RESET" BUTTONS!

WHAT ARE WE UP AGAINST THIS TIME?

NATURALLY! I'VE GOT TO SAY IT, SHANNA... FOR A GIRL, YOU'RE OKAY! THE THREE OF US MAKE A DYNAMITE TEAM!

DON'T PAT YOURSELF ON THE BACK YET, ALEC -- MY TELESCOPIC VISION HAS JUST SPOTTED DISASTER NUMBER TWO... ALREADY IN PROGRESS!

A FULL-SCALE *FLOOD!* *MAJOR DISASTER* TURNED LOOSE HIS ENERGY-FORCE TO *RUPTURE* THE *METROPOLIS RESERVOIR!*

GOSH!-- SOME OF MY FRIENDS LIVE NEARBY!

WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO, *SUPERMAN?*

STAND BY... WHILE I USE MY *SUPER-SENSES* TO DETERMINE HOW MANY *MILLIONS* OF *GALLONS* OF WATER, HAVE *OVERFLOWED!*

AND SHORTLY TWO PAIRS OF HANDS [illegible] TRS-80 KEYBOARDS IN RESPONSE TO INFORMATION COMING IN OVER THE HEADSETS...

WE UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM! BY FEEDING US THE *FORMULA* YOU USE TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH *HEAT VISION* IT TAKES TO *EVAPORATE* ONE THOUSAND GALLONS OF WATER...

...YOU WANT OUR *TRS-80'S* TO COMPUTE THE AMOUNT OF *HEAT VISION* YOU'LL NEED TO EVAPORATE *SIX MILLION GALLONS* OF FLOODWATERS!

RIGHT! AND ONCE AGAIN, THERE'S A *DANGER* INVOLVED! IF I SHOULD BEAM DOWN *TOO MUCH* HEAT--

--THERE'D BE A MASS *MELTDOWN!*

ALEC AND I ARE ENTERING THE *PROGRAMS* NOW--

--*VERY CAREFULLY!*

MERE INSTANTS LATER, AN OVERFLOWING TIDE OF SWIRLING WATERS BEGINS TO CHURN AND BOIL INTO MASSIVE BILLOWS OF RISING *STEAM*...

...SET OFF BY A *FLEETING SWEEP* OF INCALCULABLY *INTENSE* HEAT-BEAMS...

[illegible]!

THE *TRS-80's* HAVE SCORED *AGAIN!* BY FOLLOWING THE COMPUTATIONS YOU TWO SENT BACK--

--I'M SUCCESSFULLY *EVAPORATING* ALL THE *WATER* WITHOUT HARMING THE [illegible]!

TO WHICH A BEAMING *SHANNA* AND *ALEC* RESPOND WITH MUTUAL CONGRATULATIONS..

BUT THEIR MOMENT OF *TRIUMPH* TURNS OUT TO BE *FLEETING* AT BEST...

..AS THE *METROPOLIS MARVEL* CONFRONTS [illegible] THIRD AND *FINAL* WORK OF INSIDIOUS *EVIL* ..

LOOKS LIKE MY FOE SAVED THE *WORST* FOR *LAST!* IF I *FAIL* PUTTING A STOP TO *THIS* DISASTER--

--MILLIONS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE WILL BE *CONTAMINATED!*

CONTAMINATED!? THAT SOUNDS *BAD*, *SUPERMAN!*

BAD DOESN'T BEGIN TO COVER IT, SHANNA! *MAJOR DISASTER'S* FINAL ENERGY-BURST PUNCTURED A *LEAK* IN THE *NUCLEAR REACTOR* NORTH OF THE CITY--

--RELEASING A LETHAL CLOUD OF *RADIOACTIVE GASES* INTO THE A.R!

FORTUNATELY THE AIR IS *CALM* AT THE MOMENT! BUT AS SOON AS THE FIRST *WIND* COMES UP...

WE GET THE PICTURE, *SUPERMAN*! TELL US THE *STRATEGY* YOU WANT TO USE -- AND HOW *WE* CAN *HELP*!

WITH NOT A SECOND TO SPARE, THE *MAN OF STEEL* RELAYS HIS ATTACK-PLAN TO SHANNA AND ALEC -- FEEDING THEM THE INFORMATION HE CAN'S SUPER-BRAIN IS TOO "FREEZED" TO COMPUTE!

OKIE AGAIN TWO PAIRS OF HANDS DEFTLY GLIDE OVER THE *TRS-80* KEYBOARDS...

...AS *SUPERMAN'S* YOUNG ALLIES RUN WATCHING *PROGRAMS*, ENABLING THEM TO QUICKLY SUPPLY THE CAPED CHAMPION WITH THE DATA HE NEEDS!...

GOT IT -- AND JUST IN TIME, TOO! A SUDDEN *BREEZE* HAS STARTED BLOWING THE CLOUD TOWARD *METROPOLIS*!

THANKS TO *SHANNA* AND *ALEC* -- I KNOW EXACTLY HOW *FAST* TO FLY AT PRECISELY THE CORRECT *SPINNING CIRCUMFERENCE*...

...IN ORDER TO *CONTAIN* THE CONTAMINATED CLOUD AND SEND IT SPIRALING *STRAIGHT UP*...

...*ALL THE WAY* UP THROUGH THE TOPMOST LAYERS OF EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE... WHERE THE CLOUD WILL HARMLESSLY *DISSIPATE* IN OUTER SPACE!

AND *NOW* I HAVE ONE FINAL *DISASTER* TO ATTEND TO --

-- NAMELY, THE MANIACAL *MAJOR* HIMSELF!

EPILOGUE

...AND AS THIS EXCLUSIVE WGBS VIDEO-TAPE SHOWS.. SUPERMAN MADE A SURPRISE APPEARANCE AT METROPOLIS POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

...BUT IT APPEARS NO ONE WAS MORE SURPRISED THAN THE PRISONER HE WAS BRING.NG IN--

--MAJOR DISASTER!

SUPERMAN EXPLAINED AFTERWARD THAT IT WAS MAJOR DISASTER'S UNIQUE DESTRUCTIVE ENERGY-FIELD WHICH DID THE PERPETRATOR IN!

FOR ONCE HE HAD SUCCESSFULLY AVERTED ALL THREE OF YESTERDAY'S NEAR-DISASTERS... SUPERMAN THEN MERELY TRACED THE REMAINING ENERGY-RESIDUES BACK TO THEIR SOURCE--

--WHERE HE WASTED NO TIME IN DEMONSTRATING HOW THE CRIPPLING EFFECTS OF THE KRYPTONITE CRYSTALS IN HIS SYSTEM HAD FINALLY WORN OFF!

BUT WHAT STILL PUZZLES ME AND ALL OUR VIEWERS, SUPERMAN... IS HOW YOU MANAGED TO HANDLE THOSE DISASTERS EVEN THOUGH YOUR SUPER-BRAIN WAS "FUZZED OUT"!

MS. LANG, I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT THE HELP OF THE VERY LATEST COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY, AND TWO VERY SPECIAL YOUNG FRIENDS!

BUT WHY DON'T WE LET THEM DO THE REST OF THE TALKING

HELLO! MY NAME IS SHANNA...

AND I'M ALEC...

...AND WE'RE GOING TO DEMONSTRATE HOW ANY OF YOU PEOPLE WATCHING AT HOME CAN THINK AS SUPER-FAST AS A SUPERMAN--

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THE END

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WHO WAS THAT AT THE DOOR, EMERY?

APPARENTLY NO ONE, CHUCK! I IMAGINE THE NEIGHBOR'S KIDS ARE UP TO THEIR PRANKS AGAIN!

AT LEAST I MANAGED TO ELEVATE OUR [illegible] UP HERE--A SAFE DISTANCE FROM THE PEOPLE OF BRAMBLEVILLE!

[illegible]! EITHER I'VE BECOME [illegible]--OR THAT CREATURE HAS GROWN STRONGER SINCE OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER!

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN THIS TIME AS I TRY TO BREAK FREE OF ITS GRIP?

SOMETHING BEYOND YOUR WILDEST IMAGININGS, CHUCKTHAN...

?? I'M BEING BOMBARDED BY AN OVERPOWERING FLOOD OF INTENSIFIED PSYCHOKINETIC ENERGY!

STRANGE IMAGES FLICKER IN MY MIND...

"...I SEE AN ALIEN SPACECRAFT... PLUNGING OUT OF CONTROL INTO EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE... OBVIOUSLY IN DEEP TROUBLE!

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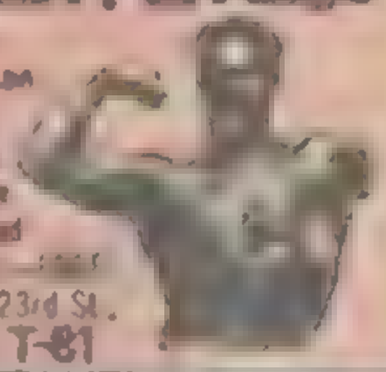

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...THE TOWERING OUTER CELESTIAL BARRIERS WE HAD ERECTED...

...THAT CONSTANT BARRAGE OF RADIATION EMITTED BY THE SUN WOULD BE CONCENTRATED ON YOUR PRIMITIVE PLANET IN THE SHAPE OF CYCLIC GEOPHYSICAL LOWS (HE-HEHE)!

FINALLY WE COULD ENJOY THE PEACE OF OUR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY. WE CONSTRUCTED A GIGANTIC DIFFUSOR...

...A DEVICE DESIGNED TO DIVERT ALL RADIATION AWAY FROM OUR HOME WORLD INTO THE VOID OF INTERSTELLAR SPACE, THAT TROUBLE-SOME STAR ON EARTH!

...WHICH DEVELOPED INTO A TOTAL REJECTION OF THE VERY CONCEPTS OF SPACE-TRAVEL, LE...

AND THUS THE SECURITY OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM, THE ONLY HABITABLE SYSTEM IN THE GALAXY, WAS ENSURED FOR ALL TIMES TO COME.

MADE BY THE HUMAN RACE.

BUT SUDDENLY THEY...

.. BECAUSE YOUR OTHERWORLD ORIGIN MAKES YOU A TEMPORARY ASTYNOMER OF OUR WORLD'S PUNY ALIEN RULERS!

A CHANCE THAT MUST BE ELIMINATED AT ONCE!

SORRY... YOU AND I DON'T SEE EYE-TO-EYE ON THIS PROBLEM!

THANK GAWD, I'VE FINALLY SUMMONED UP ENOUGH SUPER-STRENGTH TO BREAK ITS HOLD!

NOW... IF I CAN GOAD IT INTO PURSUING ME LONG ENOUGH...!

EVEN WITH YOUR SUPER-POWERS, YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR ME!

MY SCIENCE OF SPEED - FIVE LIGHT-ADVANCED MINDS -- IS INCOMING-TIBLE!

IT WAS FOLLY - MERELY OF YOU TO THINK I WAS UNAWARE OF YOUR ATTEMPTED STRATEGY!

IT WAS YOUR INTENTION TO LURE ME INTO SPACE FAR AWAY FROM EARTH-- WHERE I WOULD BE OUT OF RANGE OF MY MENTAL WAVES AND YOU'D HAVE THE POWER!

NOW THAT I HAVE CAUGHT YOU IN AN UNBREAKABLE HOLD, WE WILL REMAIN STATIONARY UNTIL I HAVE SIPHONED ENOUGH TELEPATHIC ENERGY TO COMPLETELY CRUSH THE LIFE OUT OF YOU!

NOW OR NEVER!

THE ATMOSPHERE... IT'S FINALLY AWAY!!?

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE--?! I AM EXERTING MORE THAN ENOUGH FORCE TO KEEP SUPERMAN FROM PULLING US OFF EARTH!!

MY FOE OVERLOOKED ONE SIMPLE ASTRONOMICAL FACT--

--ASIDE FROM ROTATING AND REVOLVING AROUND THE SUN, EARTH AND THE REST OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM ARE MOVING THROUGH SPACE AT TREMENDOUS SPEED!

I MANAGED TO EXERT ENOUGH STRENGTH TO KEEP MYSELF ABSOLUTELY STILL FOR AN INSTANT SO THE EARTH WOULD LEAVE US!

AND AS I FIGURED-- ONCE OUT OF THE ATTRACTIVE RANGE OF THE EARTH'S GRAVITATIONAL MASS, THE ASTRONIC EMITTER REVERTED BACK TO NORMAL WAVES OF ENERGY!

AND AMAZINGLY ENOUGH, THE EARTH'S GRAVITATIONS HAVE NO EFFECT ON IT EVER EXISTED!

I ... BY THE POSITION OF THE ... I SEE IT'S ALMOST ... A.M., ... ZATARA! I'LL HAVE TO ... UP AN EXCUSE FOR CLARK AS TO ... HE WAS IN THE NEWSREEK!

MEANTIME I CAN PUT THE REST OF THE NIGHT TO GOOD USE!

...EEEE

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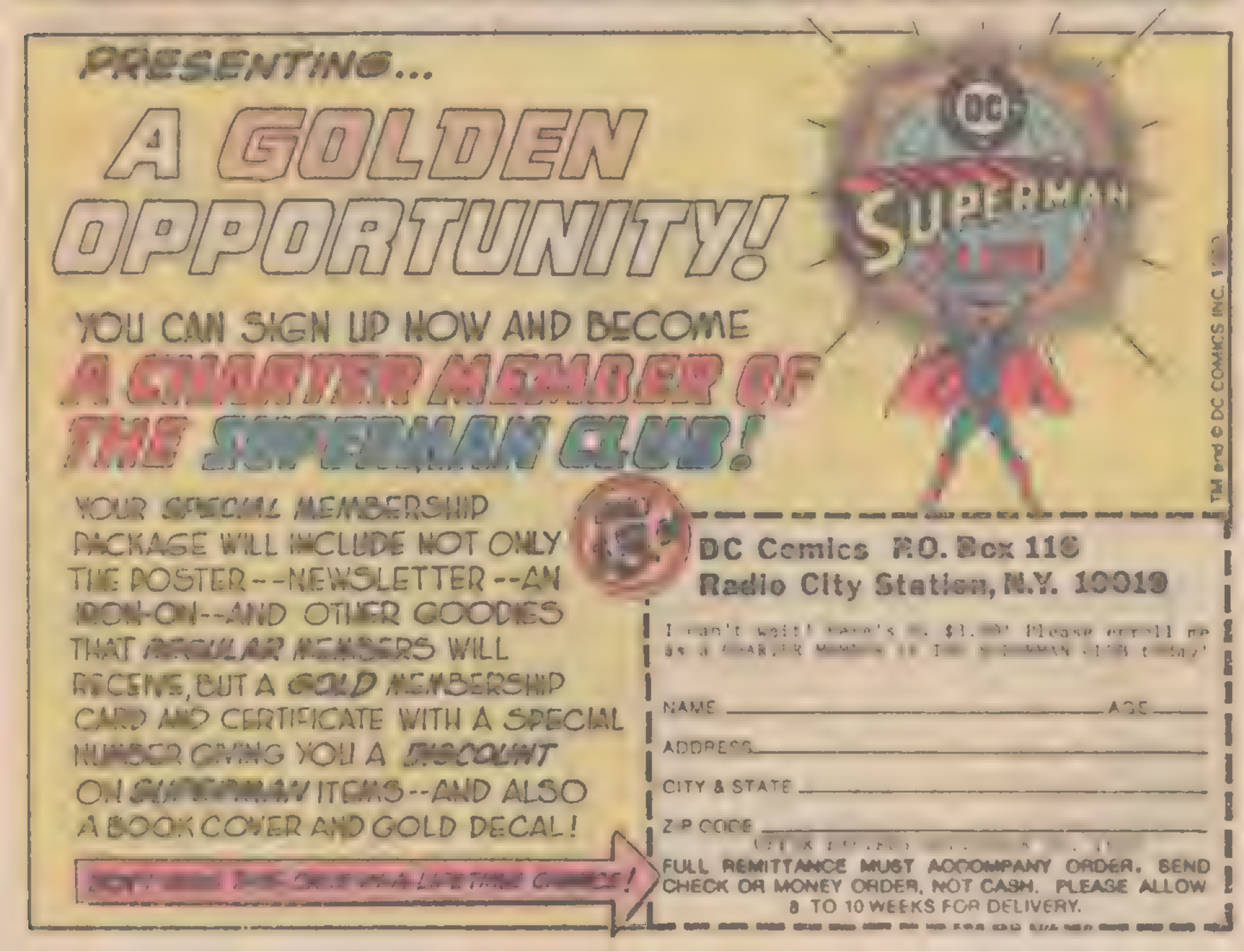
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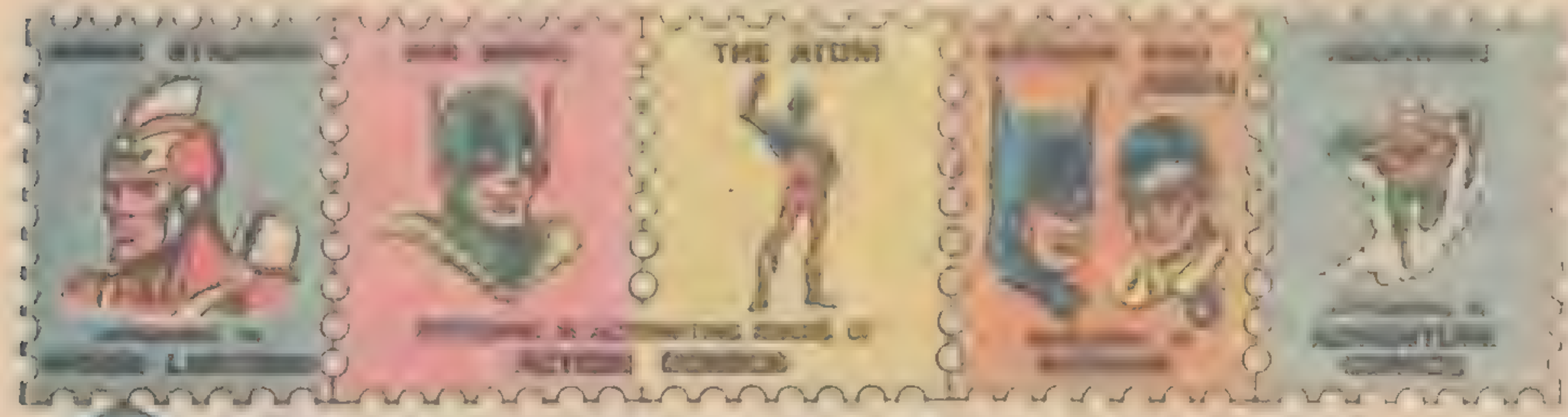

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THESE DC STARS CAN'T BE LICKED...

BUT YOU'RE BOUND TO BE STUCK ON THEM!

IT'S CRAZY! SPACE! WE'RE FIGHTING IN SPACE!

UTTER IMPOSSIBLE! WE ALL KNOW TRAVEL OFF EARTH IS A WILD FANTASY!

SUDDENLY... I AM SO CONFUSED! SUPERMAN-- WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

BUT WHY.. WHY DO THIS TO US?

WAS IT SO IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO SHATTER THE VERY FOUNDATION OF OUR BELIEFS?

WHILE THE TWO OF YOU WERE SUSPENDED, I CAREFULLY EXAMINED YOUR MINDS FROM ITS FOUNDATION AND DISCOVERED IT WAS SPACE TRAVEL -- BY FANATICS WITH SIMULATED SANITY!

NOT IMPORTANT TO ME-- BUT VITAL TO ALL OF YOU!

YOU SKEPTICONS HAVE A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT YOURSELVES... AND OUT HERE AMONG THE STARS IS THE BEST PLACE TO START!

YOU SEE I'M TAKING YOU HOME!

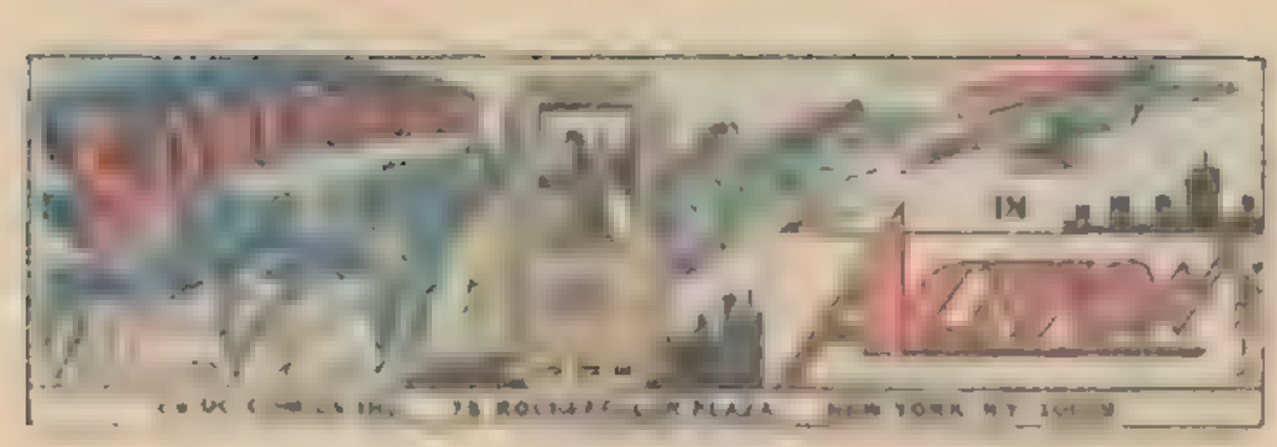
AND YOU WERE ALL CONVINCED YOU'D NEVER SEE YOUR WORLD AGAIN! BUT YOU WILL NOW-- BECAUSE I'VE ARRANGED IT!

I SUPPOSE YOU CAN'T TAKE THE TRUTH, SUPERMAN.. FOR THESE STARS ARE COMFORTING TO ME LIKE A LONGING IN A FORGOTTEN DREAM!

A FAINT MEMORY... MAKING ME FEEL I AM GOING BACK WHERE I REALLY BELONG!

TELL US MORE, SUPERMAN!

VERY WELL! IT BEGAN IN A DISTANT GALAXY AND A SPACE-JOURNEY DOOMED TO END IN DISASTER



Dear Cary, Curt, Frank, Ben, Gene, and Julius:

For too long I have been a member of the silent majority, those people who love what you're doing, but don't let you know it. Well, today I voice my opinions.

Cary—you truly amaze me ish after ish with your bright, innovative stories. *ACTION* #504 ("The Power and the Choice") is no exception. For a person to have super-powers and not want to use them is rather, well, human. These human traits are seldom found in comics, but when they are, the story becomes believable and characterization is at its best. One complaint: I wish *Superman* had fought and beaten Shiela with his own powers instead of relying on prana-power. Oh, well.

Curt and Frank—As Cary is *the Superman* writer, you two are surely *the Superman* artists. Curt's breakdowns tell the story beautifully, while Frank's inks don't over-crowd and ruin the effect.

Ben, Gene, and Julius—I don't know what to say about your work, but believe you me, it's noticed and appreciated.

Well, I guess you people have had enough of this sickeningly-sweet-talk, but I just had to let you know the silent majority is out here, so keep on your toes.

Todd Benedict
1860 N.W. 201
Seattle, WA 98177

We know—and after this letter, we'd urge you to break your silence more often!—ENB

• • • • •

Dear DC:

If there's a master at scripting *Superman*, it has to be Cary Bates. Cary has never ceased to entertain me in every DC tale he's written. Except one.

"The Power and the Choice" was a disappointment. The plot was much too predictable. *Superman* encounters a disguised villain with mystical powers; then, shortly after, Clark is rescued by a man with the same power. We knew something was a little fishy with Toby Williams, but the plot would have been extremely weak if he was our lead-lined antagonist. So enter Shiela, Williams' girl friend. Since she was the only other character introduced in the story, she had to be the villain. Ho-hum!

I've missed Faora, *Superman's* female Phantom Zone adversary, so it was great having another woman challenge the Man of Steel. But it turned out to be another disappointment. Shiela was disposed of in two panels.

The script had excessive dialogue, too. However, there was a good and a bad side to it. The good: The supporting characters were very well developed by it. The bad: Developing the characterization reduced the number of confrontations I wanted to see between Super' super-power and Shiela's [illegible].

And what about the famous 64-question the story raised? Is Kal-El really a dedicated super-hero that he'll never be able to lead a "normal" life?

[illegible] it was established a few years ago that this is the life he really wants. Let's not bring up this old psychological element again!

I'm hoping the March issue will be much better. You don't want to be criticized on the first issue for 1979, do ya?

Adam Gary Gerson
7800 W. Weldon
Phoenix, AZ 85033

Our reaction to your letter can be summed up in your [illegible]—Ed.

• • • • •

Dear Julie and Nelson:

I hope the guy who wrote me a letter in which he referred to Cary Bates' scripts as reaching "That happy medium somewhere between the banal and the outright boring" reads "The Power and the Choice," because it will make him eat his words. I had faith in Cary's talent before *ACTION* #504, but this issue strengthened that faith.

I was awe-struck by the entire issue, not just the story alone, but the artwork, the cover, the coloring, the lettering—everything. (Okay, the ads did place last.)

I confess there have been occasions when I imagine I have mind-over-matter powers. After using them, my head has what feels like little people chiseling a replica of Mt. Rushmore from the inside. I slump against a wall, frightened, angry, amazed, confused, tearful, convinced I must be a freak. In reality, I think my initial reaction wouldn't stray far from my imagined one. It's what my long-range means of dealing with the situation would be that leaves me perplexed. You can't slump against a wall forever; either you accept yourself as you are and learn to deal with that, or you find some way to rid yourself of the power. Tobias Williams chose the latter. The main lesson I got from "The Power and the Choice" is that sometimes the most heroic decision a person can make is *not* to be a hero.

You got me, Cary. By the time I figured Shiela was shady, I still didn't know it was she in the lead suit. I thought she was hypnotizing Toby. I better start paying closer attention to the cover blurbs!

One point I disagree with Toby on: *Superman's* private life "can't be much"? We know Clark Kent's life gets pretty eventful at times! (Maybe that's what partially lies behind the "I'll try not to smile at that" look *Superman* gives on page 12, panel 2. I also see it as the look of one who made the decision to accept power and live with it.)

Barbara Long
Rt. 3, Box 161
Blue Springs, MS 38828

You didn't identify the person who downgraded Cary, but let's see what one of his severest critics has to say about the story.—ENB

• • • • •

Dear Editor-In-Action:

Hey, I really *liked* "The Power and the Choice!" Tobias Williams' reluctance to use his powers—his little speech to *Superman* about how he doubted *Supes* had time to marry and have a family—was entirely convincing, and would, to some extent, be my own feeling. (Actually, I'd be more likely to appear in Las Vegas and charge admission.) But even more than that, Shiela/Shirley made an intriguing villainess. Her powers are sufficiently vague to make her an interesting *Superman*-foe. And the fact that she must use Tobias as the source of her power gives her an added twist. *Bring her back!* Her mystical/psychic powers make her a good foe for *Superman*. Give her a somewhat better costume, perhaps a new name, like *Mindmistress?*

One of Bates' better issues. By the way, a lot of time, I take the art for granted. Swan usually does an excellent job, but this time he outdid himself. When *Superman* grabbed that Expo-rocket like a giant frisbee, it was *quite* impressive. Swan was at the top of his form.

Al Schroeder III
3909 Richland Ave.
Nashville, TN 37205

You'd be doing a show in Vegas, while Barb leaned up against a wall! No wonder Earth-Prime has no super-heroes!—E. [illegible]

THE DC FEATURE PAGE

Q: How about a *Doctor Fate/Mr. Terrific* team-up?—Brian Serafine. *A*: Considering that *Mr. Terrific* was murdered in *JUSTICE LEAGUE* last year, it's not too likely.

Q: What is *Superman*'s relation to *Supergirl*?—Steven Whitehurst. *A*: Their fathers, Jor-El and Zor-El, were brothers, so they are first cousins.

Q: Does the planet Krypton have anything in common with the element krypton?—Richard Francis. *A*: The name.

Q: What issue introduced the evil *Justice League* counterparts and what were their names?— Bob Cox. *A: Ultraman, Superwoman, Power Ring, Owlman* and *Johnny Quick* of Earth-3 appeared first in *JLA* #29.

Q: Will we be seeing *FIVE STAR SUPER-HERO SPECTACULAR*?—Jeff Walker. *A*: Not in the near future.

Q: How does the *Riddler* keep his mask on?—Kevin Joyce. *A*: Some kind of glue.

Q: How about giving *Firestorm* another chance?—Unsigned. *A*: He's back in action in the *JLA* and may be getting his own feature again soon. Watch for the announcement.

Q: What editors of *SUPERMAN* and *ACTION COMICS* answered readers' letters back in the '50's and '60's?—Cheryl and Fred Morgan. *A*: Mort Weisinger and later (around 1964) E. Nelson Bridwell.

Q: Did you apply to be the Answer Man?—Jeff Garrett. *A*: I created the feature as part of the *Daily Planet* and have been the Answer Man ever since.

Q: How about giving *Batman* a furlough from *BRAVE & BOLD*?—Ray Villarosa. *A*: And what would we tell all those *B&B* fans who buy the book because *Batman* is in it?

Q: When will we see *Deadman* again?—Tim Van Berkum. *A*: In *DC COMICS PRESENTS #24.*

Q: Which Earth are the *Super Friends* on?—Vince Butler. *A*: Earth-1.

Q: When you answer questions, do you have the information in your head or do you have to look it up?—John Garyon. *A*: A lot of it is in my head; the key to getting the rest of the answers is knowing *where* to look them up...which is also in my head!

Q: How about a comic called *WEIRD ADVENTURES* which features Answer Man, who, disguised as Bob Rozakis, mild-mannered writer for *DC* Comics, fights a never-ending battle for answers, information and plenty of sleep?—Chris Khalaf. *A*: Sounds good to me...especially the part about plenty of sleep!

Q: When did *Superboy* learn that he could fly in outer space?—John Willis. *A*: The first time he tried.

Q: What does *DC* stand for?—Tom Fitzgerald. *A*: It stood for *Detective Comics*...the first book we published. (Did you know that your question has been asked so many times that I'm surprised people are still asking it!)

Q: How about the *Red Tornado* in action?—Billy Austin. *A*: He's whirling your way in an upcoming *DETECTIVE COMICS* and a regular feature in *WORLD'S FINEST!*

Q: How did *Red Tornado* get his powers?—Brian Serafine. *A*: He's an android; they were built in.

Q: Where will the *Justice Society* appear again?—Richard Hausen. *A*: Don't miss their *DC SPECIAL BLUE RIBBON DIGEST*, now on sale!

Q: Will *THE VIXEN* ever be published?—David Waldron. *A*: Probably not.

Q: Is it possible for *Flash* to replace a musical band and play all the instruments?—Toby A. Skandier. *A*: Yes.

Q: How do you pronounce Jerry Serpe's name?—Chris Khalaf. *A*: Sir-pee.

Q: How is Len Wein related to Glynis Wein?—Todd Benedict. *A*: They're married to each other.

Q: When was *UNEXPECTED* #1 published?—Unsigned. *A*: It was cover-dated Feb/Mar., 1956.

THE ANSWER MAN'S "WHAT'S IT WORTH" DEPARTMENT

In order to get through the numerous inquiries from readers about the values of old comics, we're condensing them to this new department. All prices are from the Overstreet Price Guide and are for comics in good condition. Please do not send long lists of books. This column is intended to help those readers who find an old issue or two and wonder about the values, not those who want to catalog their entire collections. (Get your own Price Guide if you want to do that!)

Q: *STALKER* #4—Bill Sykaluk. *A*: 35¢.

Q: *SUPERBOY* #1?—Albert Graves. *A*: $115.

Q: *SUPER-HEROES BATTLE SUPER-GORILLAS* #1?—Unsigned. *A*: 25¢.

Q: *ATOM AND HAWKMAN* #40?—Mark Solkoff. *A*: 50¢.

Q: *WEIRD WORLDS* #6?—Arthur Schmidt. *A*: 60¢.

Q: *MAN-BAT* #1?—Danny Golding. *A*: 50¢.

Q: *SUPERBOY* #'s 151 and 152?—Chipper Bell. *A*: 40¢ each.

Q: *HOUSE OF MYSTERY* #15?—Jeff Walsh. *A*: $4.

Q: *G.I. COMBAT* #189?—Doug Helminek. *A*: 15¢.

Q: *SUPERMAN* #'s 237 and 240?—Scott Bland. *A*: 60¢ and 50¢, respectively.

Q: *SUPER-TEAM FAMILY* #1?—Myron Williams. *A*: 50¢.

Q: *SGT. ROCK* #202?—Tim Van Berkum. *A*: 25¢.

Q: *HAWKMAN* #21?—Scott Limmer. *A*: 60¢.

Q: *ADVENTURE COMICS* #408?—Michael Jurick. *A*: 25¢.

Q: *SANDMAN* #5?—Alan Stone. *A*: 25¢.

Q: *BATMAN* #201?—Christina Rohan. *A*: 35¢.

Q: *SECRET SIX* #1?—Sharon Barnes. *A*: 50¢.

Q: *TEEN TITANS* #'s 5 and 6?—Charlie Brewer. *A*: $1 and 60¢, respectively.

Q: *SUPERMAN* #239?—Simon Gallimore. *A*: 75¢.

Q: *JIMMY OLSEN* #159?—Unsigned. *A*: 20¢.

Q: *LOIS LANE* #20?—Alan Peters. *A*: $3.50.

SUPERMAN #268?—Manny Burgos. *A*: 25¢.

Q: *SENSATION COMICS* #48?—David Patterson. *A*: $7.

Q: *ACTION COMICS* #339?—Jason Schwenkl. *A*: 60¢.

Q: *ACTION COMICS* #370?—Robert King. *A*: 40¢.

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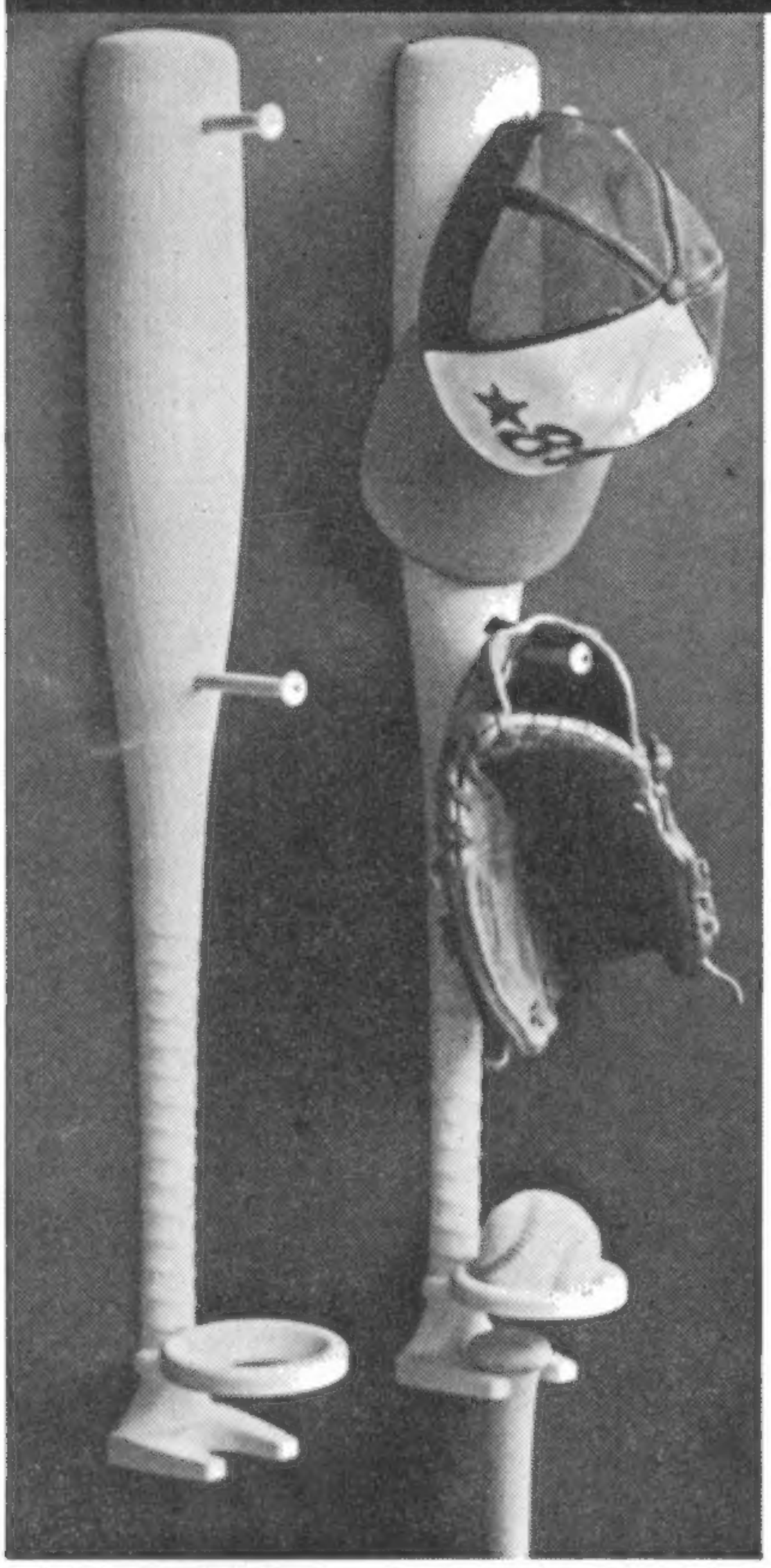

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